

Anthrax cases heighten fears in US

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US travel advisory irks Dick

BY N. BORDADORA AND D. PAZZIBUGAN

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon is pissed.

He thinks the latest travel advisory on the US/A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2001 ★ 56 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 304 P15



STORY IN THE WORLD, PAGE A11

Anti-US protests growing



THE LOOK of uncertainty on their faces, Afghan refugees fled across the border into Quetta, Pakistan, three days before the bombings hit their long war-shattered country.

'Cycle of terror can plunge us into holocaust'

WITH reports of more civilian casualties, the allied forces' air strikes on Afghanistan yesterday drew more protests and sharp criticism of the United States, especially in Muslim countries.

Officials of Malaysia's powerful Islamic fundamentalist opposition party asked the United Nations to declare the United States a terrorist state for attacking Afghanistan.

Other countries also expressed concern that the attacks on prime terrorist suspect Osama bin Laden and his host, the ruling Taliban, would kill too many civilians. Anti-American or anti-war demonstrations took place Monday in the Gaza Strip, Pakistan, Greece, Belgium, Germany and Turkey.

A top military official in Vietnam joined opponents of the air strikes by predicting that the US-British military campaign would not subdue Bin Laden or the Taliban.

"I support the fight against terror, but not by resorting to war, because it is the civilians who will suffer the most," said Van Tien Dung, one of his nation's top generals in the Vietnam War.

The Taliban said "tens of people" had been killed in the air strikes and the American administration of "terrorism" against Islam.

The attacks that started Sunday night on the capital Kabul continued Tuesday, including overnight strikes on Taliban strongholds such as Kandahar and suspected Bin Laden training camps.

Doctors reported that four people were killed in Kabul. The Taliban said 20 people were killed Monday, including women, children and the elderly.

"In this free-style game, Washington is aiming-ANTI-US/ A18

'New war' looks very conventional

WASHINGTON—They billed it as the war that would be unlike all others, but when the first salvos of cruise missiles were fired on Afghanistan this weekend, it appeared conventional in every way, experts said on Monday.

"It is certainly a very classical way of starting a war, and it has a traditional aspect to it that makes us think of other operations," said Thomas Keaney of Johns Hopkins University in Washington.

US officials have been at pains to stress there would be no "D-Day," saying that the war against terrorism following last month's attacks in New York and Washington would be mostly invisible and that special forces on the ground would play a critical but secret role.

But when President George W. Bush addressed the nation to announce the start of hostilities on

NEW/ A18

DAY 3

Strikes continue; Americans edgy

WASHINGTON—At the same time that the US military appeared set to pummel Afghanistan for a third consecutive day yesterday, a jittery American public confronts the fear of fresh strikes by terrorists.

President George W. Bush has had to juggle his roles as commander in chief and comforter in chief to calm his nervous nation.

More so because Washington notified

the UN Security Council on Monday that its counterterrorism campaign could hit other countries known to harbor terrorists in retaliation for the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

"The best defense against terrors is a global offensive against terror whenever it might be found," Bush declared Monday.

"On all efforts, on all fronts, we're going to be ongoing and relentless as we tighten

the net of justice," the US president added.

Britain, which participated in the first wave of attacks on Sunday and gave logistical support on Monday, made clear that it stands firmly with the US resolve to continue the military strikes.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair hinted the offensive would ex-STRIKES/ A19

THE HOME FRONT

Rice supply sufficient; price monitors in place

BY CHRISTINE GAYLICAN AND CYNTHIA D. BALANA

Ed's Note: Is the country prepared to fight the "war on terrorism," or to endure its uncertain consequences? Starting today, the INQUIRER will run an occasional series of stories reviewing the country's state of readiness.

"MALAYO sa binuka," goes the old saying.

The phrase, which literally reads "away from the gut," means one is far from danger. It is a saying that applies to the Philippines now, because of the sheer physical distance from the war in Afghanistan. It also applies to the country's rice situation.

"We have an adequate rice supply, but this should not deter us from preparing for any eventuality. For this matter, the NFA is currently drawing up a contingency plan in preparation for the country's food security

in case the world crisis persists," National Food Authority Administrator Anthony Abad said.

The country has enough rice to last it until the start of the Christmas season. But because the lean months are over and the harvest period is about to begin, and also because the NFA is about to buy rice again, the Yuletide deadline is already the worst-case scenario.

RICE/ A18

Maranaos: We're willing to go to Afghanistan

BY BUTCH D. ENERIO
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MARAWI CITY—Hundreds of Muslim Filipinos are willing to go to Afghanistan if recruited to fight with the ruling Taliban.

Hadiji Abdulah Dalidig, founder and chair of the Marawi-based Islamic Movement for Electoral Reform and Good Government (Imergg), made this disclosure as an angry crowd of Maranaos from Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte massed yesterday to protest the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan.

The crowd, led by the Imergg and estimated by organizers at 10,000 strong, condemned the air strikes as acts of terrorism and burned an American flag, shouting "Death to America and long live Osama bin Laden!"

"We are trying to send a message to the US MARANAOS/ A18

Heavy rain hampers AFP drive vs Abus

Are they cornered or gone?

BY CARLITO PABLO

EXPLOITING heavy rain and treacherous terrain, Abu Sayyaf bandits have broken up into small groups in an attempt to escape from pursuing government forces in Basilan, military officials said yesterday.

Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta Jr. said there was a lull in the fighting on Monday but noted that intelligence reports on the movements of the bandits were pouring in.

"They took advantage of the weather. As of now, it's really raining hard. Also the terrain is very treacherous," Mabanta told defense

reporters yesterday.

The Abu Sayyaf suffered at least 21 dead and 21 others wounded when its main force, led by Khadaffy Janjalani, clashed with Army soldiers and policemen at the boundary of Lantawan and Isabela City in Basilan.

Seventeen military personnel were also wounded in the fighting.

A provincial board member, however, said most of the fatalities were civilians as he denounced the ongoing military strikes.

The offensive has revived optimism that the military can deliver a final blow to the bandit group, which has been holding 18 hos-HEAVY/ A6



THE WAR NEXT DOOR: Mopping-up operations in Balantayan, Isabela, Basilan, after the bloody encounter on Sunday between the Abu Sayyaf and government troops, leaving 20 bandits dead and six soldiers wounded.

Survey: Ping, Mike, 'badly damaged'

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

FILIPINOS are withholding judgment on opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, both of whom are facing allegations of corruption, according to the results of a Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey.

But the nationwide survey, conducted on Sept. 1-18, 2001, found that the reputations of both Lacson and Arroyo were "badly damaged" by the negative publicity arising from the allegations.

Lacson's net trust rating (the difference between the percentage of those who trust him and those who distrust him) plunged to negative 13 percent while that of Arroyo

SURVEY/ A5



Rush to end Lacson probe hit

De Vera said Rivero was also dismissed from the PCSO and his job at the Radio Mindanao Network because of alleged anomalies.

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Wong claimed Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, merely "made up" the story about her seeing him having lunch with a Triad boss named Mr. Lee on Feb. 4, 1999. He claimed this could not be because he was in China that whole day. Besides, he said, he did not know Lee.

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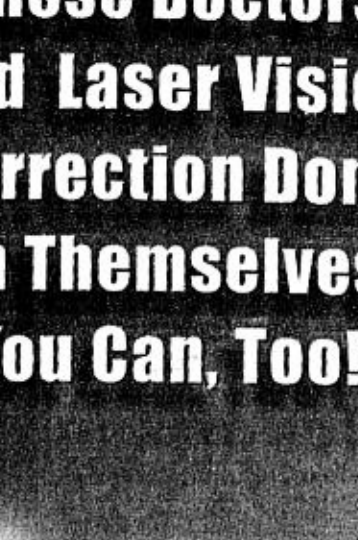
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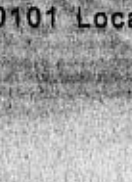


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Another House reporter, Jess Diaz of Philippine Star, was also invited to appear in the panel's next hearing on Oct. 16.

Diaz is expected to be asked regarding one of his stories that named Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II and Senior Deputy Majority Leader Francis Escudero as the "sources" of Valderama's report.

Wawanay said he does not feel any particular danger to his person at the moment; except for the ominous text messages sent to him daily.

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Palace declares 1st long holiday weekend

THE COUNTRY will enjoy a five-day weekend for All Saints' Day, apparently the first of several long weekends being recommended by the Department of Tourism.

Malacañang yesterday declared the afternoon of Oct. 31, Wednesday, and the whole day of Nov. 2 as

special non-working days throughout the country.

The declaration was contained in Proclamation 106 dated Oct. 4.

In it, Malacañang said that it would give the people "full opportunity to our people to properly observe (Nov. 1) with all its religious fervor."

In that same document, it was learned that the long weekend was recommended by the tourism department.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon had earlier said that he would recommend long weekends in a bid to revive the tourism industry, which is beset by numerous problems, especially security of foreign tourists.

'DILATORY TACTICS'

Erap lawyers filed 112 motions—Desierto

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday took up the cudgels for the Sandiganbayan Third Division, saying jailed former President Joseph Estrada should blame himself and his lawyers for his misery.

Desierto said in an interview that the lawyers were just "deceiving the public" for heaping blame on the Sandiganbayan justices.

In truth, Desierto said the defense had filed 112 motions and pleadings since July this year.

"How could the court resolve the motions filed by the lawyers of Joseph Estrada when they are filing motions after motions? Can you expect the court to resolve them at the same time?" he said.

The defense yesterday filed a seven-page compliance stating that the court

had issued very late decisions, which, it said, had rendered moot and academic its pending motions.

It claimed that the late issuance of the resolutions was "unfair" since it rendered impossible any move for reconsideration or the securing of a last-minute temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court.

But Desierto said the court was also required by law to first ask the prosecution for any comment or answer before it could act on the pending motions.

"Even the prosecution is burdened with these unnecessary motions. We are required to answer these motions as part of due process. But many of these (pleadings) were filed as part of the defense's dilatory tactics," Desierto said.

But despite the defense's penchant for bombarding the court with motions after motions, the Sandiganbayan had

acted on them, except for five motions.

Desierto also pointed out that the defense was even resorting to the filing of "fantabulous" motions like a "motion to go home" and a "motion to hold."

Desierto also said that defense lawyer Rene Saguisag even attached the examination questions intended for his law students in San Beda College when he filed a recent motion.

"How can the court possibly study the questions addressed to (Saguisag's) students?" he said.

Desierto also took time to assail the former president for allegedly creating a situation to gain sympathy from the public.

He said Estrada "should get an acting award for his performance" during the scheduled start of his plunder trial on Oct. 1. "He went to the court in slippers and without his lawyers just to create an underdog situation," he said.

Desierto was puzzled how the nine lawyers for Estrada could all be missing at the same time.

Minority senators won't give up probe of Mike A

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND ARMAND NOCUM

SENATORS belonging to the minority yesterday vowed to oppose any attempt by members of the majority coalition to take the lead in the Senate investigation into the new allegation of "animal" involving First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Edgardo Angara both insisted that the Senate committee on constitutional reforms, revision of laws and codes and electoral reforms should be the "primary" panel to conduct the inquiry.

Mr. Arroyo had been charged with having diverted funds from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to finance the media campaign of four candidates in the May senatorial elections.

Angara, who chairs the committee, asked what the majority coalition was afraid of, noting that its members had the superior number in the 14-member committee.

"We are six in the opposition and the majority has eight members, including the ex-officio members. We cannot understand the effort to recall the original decision to assign my committee as the lead body in the inquiry," Angara said in a statement.

Angara's committee had earlier been designated to conduct the inquiry but senators in the majority moved to have the inquiry referred to their committees, which include the committee on games and amusement by Sen. Robert Barbers.

Sen. John Osmeña also sought to clarify the participation of his committee on the inquiry as it had earlier been tasked to look into the books of the PCSO.

But Osmeña had demanded that the Senate blue ribbon committee conduct the investigation as well.

Angara said the opposition would welcome a second committee which helped in the inquiry "provided they tell us the reason" for this.

For his part, Pimentel said members of the majority could always resort to calling for a vote to assert their position, but urged them to agree to a consensus among the senators to settle the question.

Otherwise, Pimentel said, members of the minority would "oppose it vigorously, wrecking the agenda for the day" and consequently delaying the start of the inquiry.

He called attention to the fact that there were 11 opposition senators, each prepared to state his piece if necessary.

"They could always assert their numbers. But might would give them only a pyrrhic victory," Pimentel said.

"It is better that they do not do so because they will find a lot of obstacles along the way that can derail whatever else they might want to do."

Senate President Franklin Drilon, on the other hand, sought to downplay the latest crisis to hit the Senate.

"It's just a debate, there is no conflict," Drilon told reporters. "I'm sure we can find a solution in the course of the debate," he said.

The Senate did not take up the issue yesterday. However, Majority Leader Loren Legarda said the matter might be discussed in today's session.

Also yesterday, Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, dared the lone witness in the alleged PCSO anomaly to submit his affidavits before the panel to back up his charges.

Arroyo noted the altercation in the Senate came about because former PCSO media consultant Robert Rivero made the charges against Mr. Arroyo.

"Now, the senators have realized that we are all jumping at each other, fighting among ourselves, all because of what Robert Rivero claimed," he said.

But, Arroyo observed, Rivero "had not shown any affidavit, no paper. Just allegations in the media."

"What is this? We have not seen even a single piece of paper, not even a notarized paper from Robert Rivero," he said.

Thus, he said, Rivero should now file an affidavit that we may know what his allegation is.

"Otherwise, he can always change it. Every day we are discussing it, like now. They are listening. They can adjust the affidavit in accordance with answers given."

Mike not yet off 1st hook

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo will have to first hurdle an allegation hurled at him three months ago before confronting the new charge that he diverted funds from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

The Senate blue ribbon committee will start conducting on Thursday the inquiry into allegations that Mr. Arroyo accepted a P50-million bribe in exchange for getting Malacañang to recall a veto of two telecommunications franchise bills, committee chair Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

Arroyo said that he had invited the First Gentleman to attend the Thursday hearing.

Arroyo said Mr. Arroyo submitted last week his affidavit contesting the allegations against him. He said the First Gentleman had generally denied committing any wrongdoing.

The Senate inquiry stemmed from a Senate resolution filed by opposition member Sen. Blas Ople

last August. Ople sought to get to the bottom of allegations that Mr. Arroyo was given a P50 million bribe to persuade President Macapagal-Arroyo to recall the veto of the legislative franchises of the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. and APC Wireless Interface network Inc.

Former Palace secretary Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo had accused Arroyo of accepting the bribe. She has since recanted her story.

Senator Arroyo said he had designated lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno as special counsel of the newly organized Senate blue ribbon committee.

Invited to attend the Thursday hearing were Rodrigo; Malou Nuñez, former secretary of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez; Gabby Claudio, presidential legislative liaison officer; Aurora Aquino of the Malacañang records division; and Antonio Curado, Assistant Secretary for legislation.



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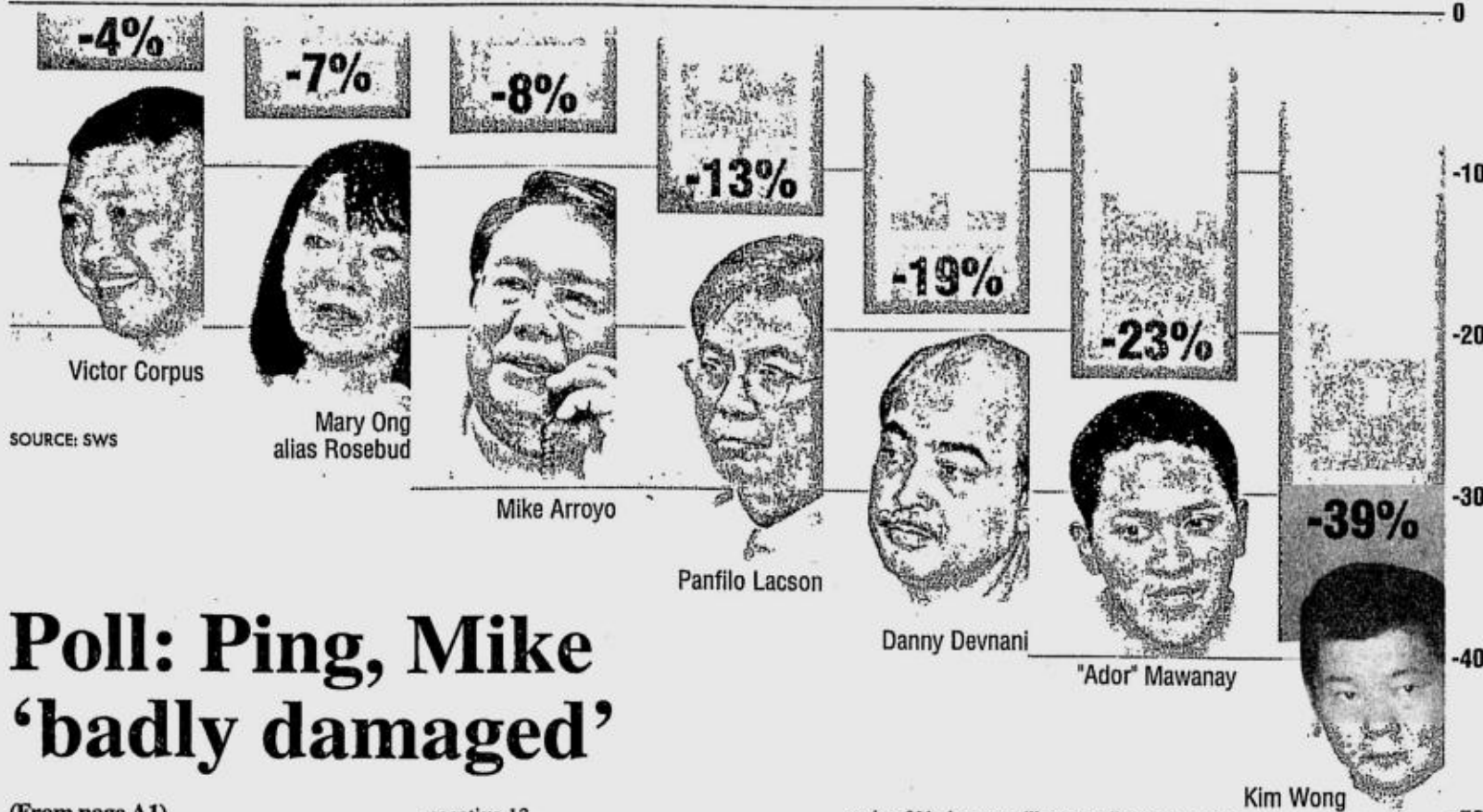
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Net trust ratings of Arroyo, Lacson and Lacson's accusers and pal



Poll: Ping, Mike 'badly damaged'

(From page A1)

dropped to negative 8 percent.

But many respondents also distrusted Lacson's accusers, according to the SWS.

On the accusation that Lacson amassed hidden wealth abroad, the SWS survey found that 32 percent of the 1,200 respondents believed it; 21 percent did not believe it; and 47 percent said they did not know enough about it to make a judgment.

Lacson, a former police chief during the Estrada administration, was accused by military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus of amassing millions of dollars from criminal activities like kidnapping-for-ransom, drug trafficking and smuggling.

On the accusation that Arroyo received a bribe, 21 percent of the respondents believed it; another 21 percent did not believe it; and 58 percent said they did not know enough about it.

A former Palace correspondence secretary had claimed that Arroyo allegedly received a bribe from a telecommunications company. But she later clarified that she only heard from somebody that Arroyo had received the bribe.

These results were "reminiscent of the benefit of doubt that most (people) gave to then President Joseph Estrada right after the Chavit Singson exposé (that Estrada received money from jueteng operators) a year ago," the SWS said in a statement.

While many respondents suspended judgment on Lacson and Arroyo, the public trust ratings of the two men suffered big declines.

The SWS said 30 percent of the respondents trusted Lacson while 43 percent distrusted him, giving him a net trust rating of

negative 13.

It was a sharp drop from his net trust ratings of 24 percent on Feb. 2-7 and 14 percent on Jan. 27-29. When he was the head of the Philippine National Police in 1998-2000, Lacson's satisfaction ratings were usually more than 40 percent, according to the SWS.

The SWS said the upper and middle classes were the most convinced about the accusations against Lacson.

A total of 57 percent of the respondents from these classes believed that Lacson had hidden wealth abroad.

But unlike in last year's juetengate that led to the impeachment trial of Estrada, the perception of the poorest, Class E, that Lacson had hidden wealth was not much different from those of the upper and middle classes, according to the SWS.

Arroyo obtained a 28-percent trust rating compared with a 36-percent distrust rating, giving him a net trust score of negative 8.

"Even among those who trust Lacson and among those who trust Arroyo, most say that they did not have enough facts to either believe or disbelieve the charges against them," the SWS said.

The SWS said the only senator who obtained negative net trust ratings in its previous surveys was Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, after the military coup attempts in 1987 and 1989.

The only First Spouse who got negative trust scores was Imelda Marcos, whose latest rating was a negative 34 percent in September last year.

Last week, Lacson used the privilege hour in the Senate to accuse Arroyo of misusing funds of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and of heading a supposed "Depart-

ment of Underground" responsible for making suspicious deals.

This latest accusation against the First Gentleman was not included in the SWS survey.

On Lacson's accusers, the SWS said 32 percent of the respondents said they trusted Corpus while 36 percent said they distrusted him, giving Corpus a net trust rating of negative 4.

Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, had a 31-percent trust rating and a 38-percent distrust rating for a net trust rating of negative 8.

Ong has accused Lacson and his men of engaging in drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom.

Danny Devnani had a 22-percent trust rating and a 4-percent distrust rating for a net rating of negative 19.

Devnani said Lacson was behind the kidnappings in the country.

Angelo "Ador" Mawanay obtained a 22-percent trust rating and a 45-percent distrust rating, giving him a net trust rating of negative 23.

Mawanay has accused Lacson and his men of drug trafficking, smuggling and kidnapping for ransom.

The worst score was obtained by Lacson's friend Kim Wong, who got only a 11-percent trust rating and a 50-percent distrust rating, for a net trust of negative 39, according to the SWS.

The SWS said the current public distrust of Lacson's accusers was reminiscent of the juetengate scandal last year. It said surveys at that time showed that Singson was "highly distrusted" by both the anti-Estrada and pro-Estrada camps.

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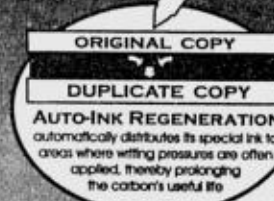
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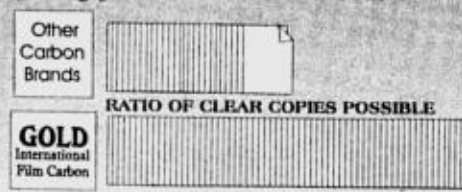
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27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jon 4:1-11
Gospel: Lk 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

Father, hallowed be your name,
may your kingdom come,
give us each day the kind of bread we need,
and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive all who do us wrong,
and do not bring us to the test."

Commentary

Luke has also a version of the Lord's Prayer. The more popular version is Matthew's. Here Jesus gives the prayer as a command. There are five petitions, two for God's action for himself, and three for us. In these petitions, we ask for every human need—for the coming of God's rule and justice, for sustenance, for forgiveness, and for faithfulness in the face of temptations. The prayer is perfect because it transcends time, from the present to the end-time. It asks for all our needs here and now and for our final salvation, and because it comes from the Lord himself teaching us to call on God the Father the way he does. In this best prayer in the Bible, Jesus makes God close to us.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE/EVIDENCE)—Review of complainant's testimony in rape cases—In reviewing rape cases, the Court will be guided by the principle that an accusation for rape can be made with facility. While the commission of the crime may not be easy to prove, it becomes even more difficult for the person accused, although innocent, to disprove that he did not commit the crime. In view of the intrinsic nature of the crime of rape where only two persons are normally involved, the testimony of the complainant must always be scrutinized with great caution. Thus, in a prosecution for rape, the complainant's credibility becomes the single most important issue. The Court has meticulously scrutinized the testimony of the complaining witness and ultimately reached the conclusion that the acts charged did in fact occur. The witness' testimony on the act of rape perpetrated against her by the accused-appellant is clear and could have only been narrated by a victim subjected to such a sexual assault. The bestiality committed by accused-appellant is detailed in the narration of the victim at the witness stand. Under rigorous cross-examination, private complainant remained steadfast and never wavered in her assertion that accused-appellant forced her to have sexual intercourse with him. On review, the Court finds that her testimony bears the hallmarks of truth. It is consistent in material points. The rule is that when a rape victim's testimony is straightforward and candid, unshaken by rigid cross-examination and unflinched by inconsistencies or contradictions in its material points, the same must be given full faith and credit. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Ynares-Santiago, People v. Baway, G.R. No. 130406, January 22, 2001]

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Heavy rain hampers AFP drive vs Abus

(From page A1)

tages, including an American couple, for the past five months.

But with government forces losing contact with the bandits, the debacle in Lamitan town on June 1 appears to have returned to haunt the military.

On that day, the Abu Sayyaf's main force was able to slip through a military cordon around

the Dr. Jose Torres Memorial Hospital at the town center of Lamitan.

Congressional bodies that investigated the incident, as well as allegations that a general and several high-ranking officers were colluding with the Abu Sayyaf, have yet to release their findings.

"Of course, we don't want that (Lamitan case) to happen (again), but just in case they (bandits) were able to slip through, our intelligence net-

work has become better compared to a few months back when it was almost zero," Mabanta said.

More troops

The Army spokesperson said more troops, particularly those from the Army's 11th Infantry Battalion, had been deployed to augment the 1st Scout Ranger Battalion and the 10th IB.

"We never said they were cordoned," Mabanta said when asked if the encounter could be compared to that in Lamitan. "What we said was that there was a major engagement."

He pointed out that the battleground was a mix of mangrove, coconut plantation, mountain ranges and a coastline.

The Abu Sayyaf's main force is composed of about 150 gunmen and believed to be still holding in captivity American missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham, and 16 Filipinos.

"We're running after them. Believe me, we're trying to do our best," Mabanta said.

'Cornered'

Other top military officers, however, said the bandits had already been "cornered" as they expressed hope that the breakthrough would lead to the resolution of the hostage crisis, according to the Agence France Presse.

"The Abu Sayyaf are cornered now and it's only a matter of time before we can destroy them," Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu,

chief of the military's Southern Command, was quoted in the AFP report as saying.

"We are close to finishing this problem with the Abu Sayyaf," Cimatu said.

Fighting resumed early Tuesday when government forces drove back about 10 Abu Sayyaf members trying to slip out of the military cordon, he said.

In an interview aired by radio station dxRZ in Zamboanga City, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya had said the hostages, along with his group, were on the run from the military forces.

"The hostages are really getting tired. They are getting tired because the government's 105 (mm artillery) do not discriminate," he said.

However, he hinted his group would soon stage retaliatory actions in Basilan, warning Muslim residents: "This is just the beginning. Pack up and leave."

About 100 Abu Sayyaf members are believed holed up on the outskirts of Lantawan. Col. Hermogenes Esperon, head of a task force pursuing the Abu Sayyaf, said there were 7,000 troops in the island.

Dilemma

The bandits "are probably facing a dilemma on how to escape the government soldiers. We have forces moving in to their positions in all directions and the military has inflicted heavy casualties on the Abu Sayyaf," Esperon said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva has tried to temper expectations, saying in a radio interview that "with the terrain there, we cannot say with 100-percent certainty that we can finish all that."

Navy vessels patrolled the waters off Lantawan to keep the Abu Sayyaf from fleeing with the hostages.

Basilan Board Member Noel Baul said most of those who died in the latest clash were civilians and not members of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said he was informed by local residents and a colleague in the provincial board, Naser Salain, that most of the dead were not bandits.

Moreover, Baul said about 80 percent of those who had died or had been arrested over the past months in Basilan were civilians and not even sympathizers of the bandit group.

The human rights group Karapatan supported the local official's allegations, citing initial reports from its contacts in Basilan as saying at least 10 other civilians were injured in the clash on Sunday.

Living in fear

"The people of Basilan are constantly living in fear. You'll never know whether you are next," Baul told the INQUIRER after a press briefing held by Karapatan.

He said most of the alleged Abu Sayyaf leaders and members who had been arrested or killed were actually civilians who had personal grudges with military "assets."

He explained that in Basilan, as in other Muslim communities, clan wars were normal. Apparently to retaliate against their enemies, the "assets" feed their names to the military even if their enemies were not really Abu Sayyaf members, he added.

"I suggest to the military that they observe their assets first before believing the information fed them," Baul said. With reports from AFP and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

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US travel advisory irks Dick

(From page A1)

Philippines issued by the US State Department smacks of discrimination and belies the actual situation in the country, particularly Mindanao.

In fact, he said, even before the heightened terrorist attacks of the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu, the United States and certain European countries were already singling out the Philippines as a high-risk location.

"The practice of issuing travel advisories is discriminatory to developing countries like the Philippines. These advisories misrepresent the real situation in the whole island of Mindanao," Gordon said in a statement.

"When suicide pilots attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon (on Sept. 11), we never issued any travel advisory to our citizens not to visit New York and Washington," he added.

In its advisory dated Oct. 5, the US State Department urged Americans to "exercise great caution throughout the Philippines" because of kidnappings, bombings and other violent incidents.

Americans were warned from going to southern and western Mindanao, including Zamboanga City, and Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo in the Sulu archipelago.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. said US *charge d'affaires* Robert Pitts had agreed to "look into" Malacañang's objection to the advisory.

Guingona and other Cabinet officials met with US Embassy officials in Malacañang yesterday afternoon to discuss the matter. "We told them we have instituted security measures," he told reporters at the Department of Foreign Affairs after the meeting.

Earlier in the day, Guingona said the government would ask the US Embassy to rectify the advisory.

But for all that, DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros is not particularly fazed.

He said it would have been worse if the US State Department issued a "travel warning," which he said carried greater weight.

"It's something that stems from (their) sense of heightened security (after the Sept. 11 attacks)," he said of the advisory. "They have become more security-conscious."

Lecaros said, however, that the DFA expected the US State Department to make a distinction between the conditions in Basilan, base of the Abu Sayyaf, and other places in the country.

Over the hill

Gordon said that at last week's World Tourism Association meeting in Osaka, he

was joined by his counterparts in other developing countries in calling for a stop to the US government's practice of issuing travel advisories.

"We're almost over the hill now in our fight against the Abu Sayyaf. The military timetable of finishing off the Abu Sayyaf by November is realistic," he said.

With the Abu Sayyaf stamped out, the Philippine tourism industry will experience "a rebound in a month or two," Gordon said.

The business sector in Mindanao has also expressed apprehension over the recent US advisory, saying this would gravely affect trade, investments, and foreign-funded livelihood and development projects in the area.

It said the security situation on the island except for Western Mindanao had remained stable.

Gordon also condemned the Monday bombing of several hotels in Zamboanga City, which he described as "the last hurrah of the fading terrorist threat in Basilan and Sulu."

He said the Abu Sayyaf conducted the bombings to sow fear and confusion in Zamboanga in time for the visit there of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Thursday.

Gordon discounted the possibility that the bombings were in retaliation for the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan, which started Sunday night.

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October 10, 2001

Employers seek delay in pay hike

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

TWO major employers' groups yesterday made a last-ditch call on the Department of Labor and Employment to defer the granting of wage increases until early next year even as the National Capital Region wage board was expected to rule on the P77 wage hike petition anytime this week.

"A wage increase will cripple the economy and make it the most uncompetitive in the region. It will also send the wrong signals to investors and cause capital flight," warned Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop).

Miguel Varela, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, echoed the Ecop's position, saying any wage increase should be put off until next year "when businesses will probably be in a better position to allocate benefits to their workers."

Varela said businesses are making every effort to preserve employment, but "in the event that this becomes difficult in view of competitiveness, businesses are prepared to adopt measures such as job rotation and the like to keep their workforce intact."

"The concern now should be to mitigate job losses and not allow the army of the unemployed to balloon further," Varela said.

Dee said those who will bleed from any wage increase at this time are the 99.2 percent of the 820,000 business establishments nationwide, which are categorized as micro and small enterprises.

Dee said the remaining months of the year should be a "wait-and-see" period to allow businesses to recover from the international recession in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the US and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

"Any additional labor cost in the form of wage increase will worsen the economic situation now besetting the country as this will force more companies to shut down and fire more workers," Dee said.

Earlier, Dee had announced during 10th North Philippines Area Business Conference at the Baguio City last month that President Macapagal-Arroyo had endorsed a P25 wage increase in Metro Manila which shall also become the benchmark of increases in other regions.

Pending before the NCR wage board is a P77 wage hike petition filed by the Labor Solidarity Movement. Similar petitions had been filed in eight other regions.

Lab Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas had given the wage boards until Oct. 27 to decide on the petitions, although the NCR wage board was expected to issue a wage order anytime this week after it held its final deliberation on the P77 wage hike petition last Friday.

Gloria, Sokor president to hold summit at Apec

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung are set to hold a summit meeting at the sidelines of next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in China to discuss regional cooperation on a host of issues, including the new heightened global fight against terrorism.

"The summit meeting between Your Excellency and President Kim to be held at the sideline of the Apec summit this October will surely provide the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest and further strengthen bilateral relations," said Son Sang-ha, Seoul's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Philippines.

"The designation of an ambassador extraordinary to the Philippines shows 'the utmost importance to which Korea attaches its close friendship with the Philippines,'" Son said.

Son, who is turning 55 today, presented his credentials to the President yesterday. Chief of Protocol before his Manila posting, Son is a senior diplomat who had previously served as minister or counselor to Indonesia, Germany, Malaysia, Norway, Saudi Arabia and China. He accompanied Kim during his state visit to Manila in 1999.

The specific agenda of the meeting between Ms Macapagal and Kim, a Nobel Peace laureate, has not been released.

But the Philippines is spearheading a proposal to form a regional anti-terrorism bloc with its closest neighbors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

The Philippines and South Korea are staunch allies of the United States, which is leading an international coalition that has launched military strikes against terrorist and military targets in Afghanistan in retaliation for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Together with China and Japan, South Korea is a dialog partner of Asean. In presenting his credentials, Son conveyed his government's highest esteem for her administration and the Filipino people, as well as Seoul's "profound admiration" for the "peaceful transfer of power during Edsa 2."

Grudgingly, DFA will implement envoys' appointments

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

DESPITE objections from its career officers, the Department of Foreign Affairs said it would support President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of two Estrada associates as ambassadors.

The DFA Office of Personnel and Administrative Services wrote Rufus Rodriguez and Artemio Tuquero on Oct 8 offering "any assistance" they need to prepare for their confirmation hearing before the Commission on Appointments.

Rodriguez, who was former President Joseph Estrada's immigration chief and later Sen. Loi Estrada's chief of staff, was appointed envoy to Germany.

Tuquero, who was Estrada's justice secretary, was appointed ambassador to Canada.

Career diplomats, asking not to be named, have complained that Malacañang was appeasing its political enemies at the expense of the foreign service.

One retired diplomat said the appointments "cheapened" the entire foreign service.

But DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said the President apparently took such factors into consideration before appointing Rodriguez and Tuquero.

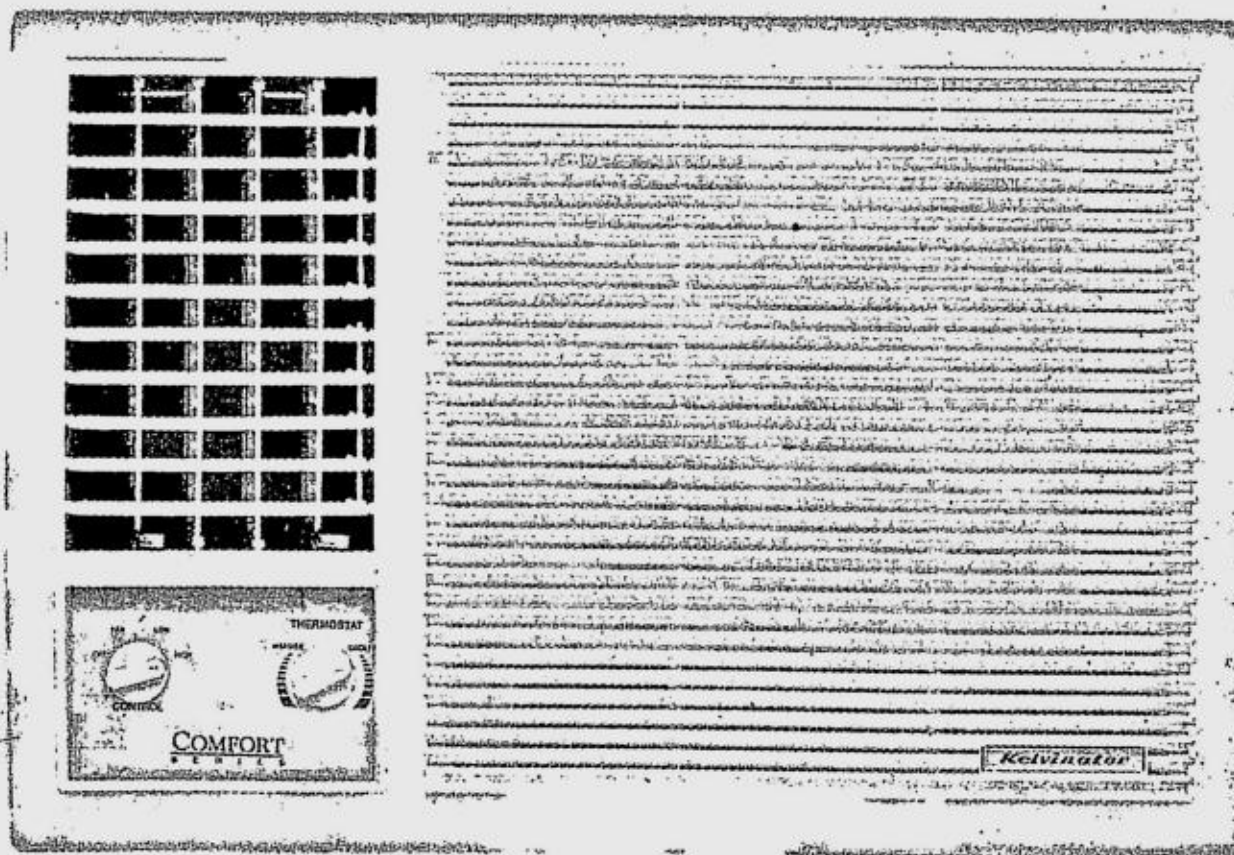
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OPINION

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 304
ISSN
0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Rocas Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

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Job No. 1

THE DARING robbery at the SM North Edsa mall in Quezon City last Saturday forces the peace and order issue back to the forefront of public consciousness.

A group of about 15 men pulled off the multimillion-peso heist in lightning fashion—cleaning out the department store's foreign exchange counter and raiding three jewelry stores as soon as the mall opened for business at 10 a.m. "It was all over in less than 10 minutes. The escape cars were already waiting for them outside," a police officer told reporters.

Antonio Remato, a security guard assigned to the education department's National Capital Region office located right beside the mall, died of a gunshot wound in the back. One of the robbers had shot him as they made their escape.

It is hard to over-estimate the impact such a bold and bloody—and successful—heist has on the public. Most urban Filipinos repair to an SM mall not only to do their shopping but to enjoy a controlled and certain environment. It may be that as many as half of all urban Filipinos spend time in an SM mall every week. Part of the attraction lies in the mall's amenities, which are not found in the average Filipino house: centralized air-conditioning, piped-in music, assorted sources of amusement and, not least, internal security.

The dramatic robbery last Saturday—the mall guards quickly disarmed; at least five suspects wielding baby ArmaLite rifles in full view of the day's first shoppers; five suspects moving with impunity to the jewelry stores on the second floor—undermines the very idea of the mall: a place that is comfortable, convenient and safe.

For the public, the crime clarifies an issue, gives shape to a nagging intuition: if it can happen in SM, it can happen anywhere.

Just one day before the robbery, the Philippine National Police announced that two kidnappings had been "solved." Prompted by the President, Director General Leandro Mendoza announced that, in the Connie Yap Wong and Jacqui Rowena Tiu cases, the suspects had been arrested and the masterminds identified.

In both cases, Mendoza said, the suspects were Chinese nationals. "This is new and significant. This is surprising and we need some research on whether these activities run deeper." He ordered Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, head of the PNP's Investigation Group, to conduct "research" on the involvement of foreigners in kidnapping and to profile the suspects to see if they were former drug traders shifting careers.

But no research is necessary to appreciate the police breakthrough.

"So you see there is a very, very important headway," the President said. "And yes, it seems that there was an attempt again to start a new spate (of kidnappings) but they have been solved very, very fast. I hope that will again scare off the kidnappers," she said.

We commend the national police for their fast action. We must note, however, that Wong and her police bodyguard were killed by their kidnappers two days after the abduction, and that Tiu had to pay ransom. While after-the-fact police investigation is important, the main responsibility of the police remains crime prevention.

The case of Wong is instructive. The sister-in-law of Uratex Foam Industries owner Robert Cheng, Wong belonged to a family that was no stranger to kidnappings for ransom. Just last June, for instance, Mary Cheng Rosagas, a daughter of Robert's, was kidnapped along with her bodyguard and her driver inside the University of the Philippines campus in Diliman. The three were released 17 hours later, reportedly upon payment of a P10-million ransom.

The murder of Wong—the first kidnap victim to die in the hands of kidnappers since 1996, according to Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto—has made the country's businessmen even more edgy.

"There's that fear all over again," Dante Jimenez of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption said. "They're asking themselves 'Who would be next?'"

Jimenez said the fear was fanned by reports that those seeking to destabilize the government were orchestrating the abductions.

That may or may not be the case. But the SM robbery and the kidnappings last week (a total of five, according to Mendoza, of which only two were considered "solved") have rattled the proverbial man-on-the-street, which once again looks unsafe. Other crises affect the nation, but crime prevention remains the government's Job No. 1.

Buses getting out of Edsa? Hurray!

BUSES will be phased out of Edsa? That must be the most welcome news so far, next to the news that Osama bin Laden is in the hands of the United States and the attack on Afghanistan is over. It is not the government that is phasing them out but the bus operators themselves who expressed a desire to get out of Edsa and shift to more profitable routes. The operators are losing their shirts because there are just too many buses on Edsa, plus the traffic gridlocks that reduce the number of trips of each unit while increasing fuel consumption. And, of course, because of the competition from the Metro Rail Transit.

One look at Edsa readily shows that there is an overpopulation of buses there. Buses are bumper to bumper all along the route, going north or south. At bus stops, buses are slumped together, two or three abreast, waiting for passengers, blocking all the vehicles behind them. Ordinarily, each unit should stop there only a few seconds, only long enough to load and unload passengers. But because of the competition for passengers, they stay there for up to 15 minutes or more to wait for passengers, blocking traffic.

The proliferation of buses is largely the fault of government. Before the MRT, there was a shortage of buses on Edsa, so the government liberalized the issuance of franchises to operators. It even encouraged the purchase of second-hand units abroad, going so far as to give loans. The Edsa route became so profitable that everybody rushed to put units there.

But as in everything else, be it in selling hot pan de sal or RTWs, we overdid it in the fielding of buses. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) issued too many franchises, genuine and fake. Even operators who had no franchises for the Edsa route operated there under the "flexibility rule" that allowed them to do that.

While there was no MRT, operators made money even with the increasing competition. Under the "boundary system," the operators earned a fixed

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

amount for each unit. It is the drivers and conductors who have to work harder and longer to have enough left over after paying the boundary.

But when the MRT started operating, more and more commuters learned that it was a much faster way to travel. What usually takes the bus two hours to travel takes the MRT only 20 minutes. The buses began to lose passengers.

Operators with franchises complained against the colorums. So the LTFRB and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) cracked down on the colorums—which they should have done a long time ago, without any prodding from anybody. The operators realized it was not worth the aggravation and expense to dodge and bribe the government agents just to stay on Edsa. So now they have proposed to get out of Edsa, provided they are allowed to operate in other routes.

"Wait a minute, not so fast," retorted Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez. "We must first make sure that your services are needed in the routes you want to enter, lest Edsa be repeated elsewhere."

An observer of the Philippines can't help but notice the paradox in our land transportation system. The streets of Metro Manila are perennially clogged with public transports but we see pictures and TV images of scarce buses and jeepneys loaded up to the roofs with passengers in the provinces. In fact, lack of transportation is often the principal problem and cause of poverty in the rural areas. Bountiful harvests often rot there because they could not be transported to other areas where they are needed and prices are

sky-high. So why don't we send the buses and jeepneys in Metro Manila to the provinces where they are needed? Give the operators an incentive to transfer there.

Another welcome news is that coming from Speaker Jose de Venecia who said that the Philippine National Railways will be rehabilitated with the help of Japan. That nation is the world leader in railroad technology. Its "Bullet Train" is one of the fastest in the world. It allowed people to commute to Tokyo from as far as the equivalent of La Union every day. Many officegoers in Tokyo go home at 11 p.m. via the "Bullet Train."

But even without getting any "Bullet Train," just rehabilitating the old PNR will help a lot in land transportation. It will help decongest Metro Manila with transportation to the provinces readily available, comfortable and quick. Provincians don't have to squat in the metropolis where they work. Squatters won't mind being relocated to the provinces where land is cheaper and the air is cleaner. They can easily commute to Metro Manila via the railroad. The highways will be decongested of buses and cargo trucks. Metro's garbage can be transported cheaply to far-flung dumps via the railroad.

The railroad will also perk up tourism. I remember when going to Baguio was a pleasant and relaxing trip to Damortis, La Union and then by bus up Kennon Road to Baguio itself. Now you need at least six uncomfortable hours to drive to Baguio or even to ride an air-conditioned bus, and that discourages people from traveling.

Going to Legazpi via the Bicol Express also used to be a comfortable and pleasant trip. You travel at night during which you either play card games or sleep. When you wake up the next morning, you are welcomed by the sight of Mt. Mayon through the train windows. You arrive at your destination relaxed and refreshed.

How soon can we travel that way again to tourist spots?

Words

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

words than today, by its power to wound as much as heal, by its power to delude as much as enlighten, by its power to kill as much as awaken.

The reasons for why the things that are happening in Afghanistan today are presumably not a war against the Afghan people but merely a war against terrorists are not always explicitly stated. They are often embedded like land mines in the rhetoric of war, and exploded in our minds with the numbing and hypnotic persistence of a ubiquitous media.

The bombings are not a war against the Afghan people because the bombs are smart, it's the people who get in their way that are dumb. Because the people who die are not flesh and blood but collateral damage, which is acceptable in the moral calculus of men and women who "have to make painful decisions." Because the people who lose home and hope in that black rain are not people but terrorists.

It was the Gulf War that unleashed those words like an evil genie, the current president's father being the one who rubbed the lamp. But you probably have to go way back to the Vietnam War to find their inspiration. In words like "wasting," to mean kill; "hamleting," to mean herding people like cattle to refugee camps; "containment" to mean the turning of a country with napalm bombs into a howling wilderness.

The driving of four million people away from their homes is not a war against the Afghan people because it is not America's bombing of Afghanistan, or before then America's threat to bomb Afghanistan, that has driven them away but the terrorism of Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. That is the mantra American and British and Pakistani officials have been chanting

again and again, echoed with ferocity by CNN, over the past several weeks, which nobody seems to want to challenge.

It is not the people who are bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age who are to blame for four million people being homeless, it is the people who have "forced the hand" of those who are bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age. The people who are bombing Afghanistan back to the Stone Age are not only not to blame, they are to be praised for being humanitarians. That is the word used to describe the keeping of the homeless alive—an act of humanitarianism.

This is not a war against the Afghan people because the White House does not, and cannot, declare war on a people, only the Black House can. The Black House calls on the *ummah*, the Islamic world religious community, to make strikes on America, and the makers, or murderers, of language call it jihad. The White House calls on the world to sanction strikes on Afghanistan, and the makers, or murderers of language, call it justice. The Black House divides the world into believers and infidels, Allah's and the devil's own, and the makers, or murderers of language, call it madness. The White House divides the world into heroes and terrorists, God's and the devil's own, and the makers, or murderers of language, call it reason.

Words are no longer the guideposts, like Ariadne's thread, by which we find our way out of the dark cave. They are the filters, the fog, the vapors that make us grope through the bog like blind men. Before this war is over, its biggest devastation won't be left in a country that has precious little left to destroy.

It will be left in the mind of humankind.

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

The bestowal of diplomatic posts

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is stubbornly defending her nomination of Rufus Rodriguez as Philippine ambassador to Germany, saying that she had offered him the post as early as last January, and that's it. Her obstinacy is like that of a blind person who has stepped on a path strewn with cow dung, and because she has waded into it, and because she is President, she sticks to it.

We are seeing in her obdurate decision a replica of the hubris that afflicted and destroyed deposed President Joseph Estrada who believed that since he was elected President with a 40 percent plurality, he could do no wrong. Ten months into her presidency, Ms Macapagal is close to breaking Estrada's two-and-a-half year record in appointing political ambassadors to plum diplomatic posts, causing widespread demoralization in the career diplomatic service.

The career officers are more disenchanted with President Macapagal than with Estrada, because she is supposed to know better, because she told the Department of Foreign Affairs staff during its anniversary that she would give a break to the career service, and there were no great expectations from Estrada. He had no grand pretensions of deploying diplomacy as an instrument of statecraft.

The widespread perception in the DFA is that President Macapagal is so self-confident she listens to no one for advice in foreign policy and in the selection of the country's diplomatic envoys abroad. The perception is that diplomatic postings are being decided on the basis of political horse-trading designed to enhance her chances for reelection in 2004.

On the basis of records I collected from the DFA, President Macapagal has appointed or nominated political ambassadors to 24 percent of the 61 ambassadorial posts, coming close to Estrada's 29 percent during his less than three years in office. Former President Fidel Ramos topped the ratio with 42 percent of political ambassadors.

President Macapagal has appointed or nominated, among others, Alberto del Rosario as ambassador to the United States; Francisco Alba to the Vatican; banker Alfonso Yuchengco to the Philippine Mission at the United Nations; former La Union Gov. Justo Orros to Bucharest, Romania; Ambassador

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Francisco Benedicto to Athens; Artemio Tuquero to Ottawa, Canada; and Alejandro del Rosario to Budapest, Hungary.

She has retained in the foreign service political appointees such as Consuelo Puyat Reyes in Chile; Jose Briliantes in Kuala Lumpur; Carmen Salas in Prague; and Bienvenido Quijano in Papua New Guinea. Her first appointee was Estrada's Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, who is now ambassador to Tokyo. Siazon, however, is a career officer.

Benedicto, who started in the foreign service as a political appointee of former President Aquino, is to be transferred to Greece to make way for Tuquero, Estrada's justice secretary. Tuquero's diplomatic posting is a trade-off with the Iglesia ni Cristo in exchange for its withdrawal of its support for the pro-Estrada rallies at Edsa in April leading to the May 1 rebellion and the stoppage of the INC's TV channel coverage of the Edsa rallies. Ambassador Norberto Basilio is to be pulled out of Athens to make way for Benedicto.

The distribution of postings worldwide shows more political appointees are holding plum posts in North America and Europe. Canada and the United States will have political ambassadors. Ambassador Yuchengco is nominated for the UN post, and the next ambassador to Mexico is likely to be a political appointee. Yuchengco had been ambassador to China, then Japan.

In Europe, political ambassadors are in London, Rome, Madrid, Athens and Germany (if President Macapagal continues to insult the sensibilities of Germany) and in most European diplomatic postings. Regina Sarmiento, who is now with the Philippine mission in Geneva, has been nominated as ambassador to Cuba. They will outnumber career ambassadors who

are now posted in Paris and Brussels, the seat of the European Union, and the post in Sweden is up for grabs.

In Asia, the tradition is that ambassadors to China, Japan and South Korea should be taken from career officers, since these are politically sensitive posts. But this has been breached with the posting of Yuchengco to China, then to Tokyo. The original five Asian countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand (the Philippines is the fifth)—are traditionally reserved for career officers, but this also has been breached by the creeping encroachment of political appointees. Former Navy chief, Admiral Guillermo Wong, is being nominated for Vietnam.

In Latin America, non-career people are being considered for most of the postings there. The overall picture is that most of the attractive postings are now crawling with political appointees.

The foreign service law says the majority of ambassadorial posts should go to career people. The DFA, among the state bureaucracies, has one of the most rigorous examinations and screening processes for admission. But at the rate President Macapagal is treating the diplomatic postings as a dumping ground for political rewards, the foreign service is developing into an extension of the domestic spoils system.

The diplomatic service is the country's mirror of the best and brightest to represent our people in other lands. President Macapagal's criteria are less rigorous and exacting and are determined by demands of her political survival and chances of reelection. The two storm centers of unrest are the nominations of Rodriguez and Yuchengco. Rodriguez's nomination shortchanges Germany, the most important country in Europe and among the most important Philippine partners in that continent. He is a diplomatic lightweight and we need someone in Berlin the Germans can respect. Although Yuchengco is experienced and a veteran, many in the DFA doubt whether he has the energy for the demanding UN job, at a time of the crisis generated by the Sept. 11 attack in the United States, and in view of the fact that the Philippines is seeking a seat in the Security Council next year.

Voice of fundamentalism

HERE'S the second part of the article "This is a Religious War," by Andrew Sullivan that appeared last Sunday in the New York Times Sunday Magazine. Even as the self-proclaimed "alliance against terrorism" rains down bombs and food packages on the Afghans, the world is still trying to come to grips with the thinking and motivations of those who unleashed this wave of terror and recrimination on us all. Hope these excerpts from the piece help.

THE FIRST mistake is surely to condescend to fundamentalism. We may disagree with it, but it has attracted millions of adherents for centuries, and for a good reason. It elevates and comforts. It provides a sense of meaning and direction to those lost in a disorienting world. The blind recourse to texts embraced as literal truth, the injunction to follow the commandments of God before anything else, the subjugation of reason and judgment and even conscience to the dictates of dogma: these can be exhilarating and transformative. They have led human beings to perform extraordinary acts of both good and evil...

In a world of absolute truth, in matters graver than life and death, there is no room for dissent and no room for theological doubt. Hence the reliance on literal interpretations of texts—because interpretation can lead to error, and error can lead to damnation. Hence also the ancient Catholic insistence on absolute church authority...Dostoyevsky's Grand Inquisitor makes the case perhaps as well as anyone. In the story told by Ivan Karamazov in "The Brothers Karamazov," Jesus returns to earth during the Spanish Inquisition. On a day when hundreds have been burned at the stake for heresy, Jesus performs miracles. Alarmed, the Inquisitor arrests Jesus and imprisons him with the intent of burning him at the stake as well. What follows is a conversation between the Inquisitor and Jesus. Except it isn't a conversation because Jesus says nothing. It is really a dialogue between two modes of religion, an exploration of the tension between the extraordinary, transcendent claims of religion and human beings' inability to live up to them,

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



or even fully believe them.

According to the Inquisitor, Jesus' crime was revealing that salvation was possible but still allowing humans the freedom to refuse it. And this, to the Inquisitor, was a form of cruelty. When the truth involves the most important things imaginable—the meaning of life, the fate of one's eternal soul, the difference between good and evil—it is not enough to premise it on the capacity of human choice. That is too great a burden. Choice leads to unbelief or distraction or negligence or despair. What human beings really need is the certainty of truth, and they need to see it reflected in everything around them—in the cultures in which they live, enveloping them in a seamless fabric of faith that helps them resist the terror of choice and the abyss of unbelief. This need is what the Inquisitor calls the "fundamental secret of human nature." He explains: "These pitiful creatures are concerned not only to find what one or the other can worship, but to find something that all would believe in and worship; what is essential is that all may be together in it. This craving for community of worship is the chief misery of every man individually and of all humanity since the beginning of time."

THIS is the voice of fundamentalism. Faith cannot exist alone in a single person. Indeed, faith needs others for it to survive—and the more complete the culture of faith, the wider it is, and the more total its infiltration of the world, the better... (It is quite clear from the accounts of the Inquisition...that many of the fanatics who burned human beings at the stake were acting out of what they genuinely thought were the best interests of the victims...)

This is the authentic voice of the Taliban. It

also finds itself replicated in secular form. What, after all, were the totalitarian societies of Nazi Germany or Soviet Russia if not an exact replica of this kind of fusion of politics and ultimate meaning?... Similarly, it is easy for us to dismiss the Nazis as evil, as they surely were. It is harder for us to understand that in some twisted fashion, they truly believed that they were creating a new dawn for humanity...

PERHAPS the most important thing for us to realize today is that the defeat of each of these fundamentalisms required a long and arduous effort. The conflict with Islamic fundamentalism is likely to take as long...

The critical link between Western and Middle Eastern fundamentalism is surely the pace of social change. If you take your beliefs from books written more than a thousand years ago, and you believe in these texts literally, then the appearance of the modern world must truly terrify. If you believe that women should be consigned to polygamous, concealed servitude, then Manhattan must appear like Gomorrah. If you believe that homosexuality is a crime punishable by death... then a world of same-sex marriage is surely Sodom. It is not a big step to argue that such centers of evil should be destroyed or undermined, as Osama bin Laden does, or to believe that their destruction is somehow a consequence of their sin, as Jerry Falwell argued. Look again at Falwell's now infamous words in the wake of Sept. 11: "I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the A.C.L.U., People for the American Way—all of them who have tried to secularize America—I point the finger in their face and say, 'You helped this happen.'"

And why wouldn't he believe that? He has subsequently apologized for the insensitivity of the remark but not for its theological underpinning. He cannot repudiate the theology—because it is the essence of what he believes in and must believe in for his faith to remain alive.

(To be concluded)

Treasures in Ermita finds

BEING a Filipino historian comes in handy when I do my weekly rounds through the Ermita antique shops. Many things often ignored by seasoned dealers like Nora Ignacio of Casa Tesoro, gains value as soon as I pick it up. In one shop, battered, water-damaged copies of the "Harvard Classics" were in a corner unwanted till I pointed out the bookplates that said these books used to be in the library of Manuel Luis Quezon and Aurora Aragon. I'm a bit suspicious though that someone must have found the bookplates and stuck them on the broken set of the "Harvard Classics" to fetch a better price. In another shop, I picked up a Faura Barometer in a box and took it to Father Badillo of the Manila Observatory. The Jesuit nearly fell off his seat when he saw it, exclaiming that he thought he would die without ever seeing one of these. There were only a handful extant in the entire universe and we took the barometer on a joyride up and down the observatory elevator to test if it was still working—it was!

Finds like the above are not common these days, my most recent notable acquisition were old gramophone records. As I rummaged through a dusty box, looking at each of these heavy old records, Ms Ignacio said in Kapampangan, "Hurry up! Don't waste your time on those...your hands are filthy!" I replied in Kapampangan, "Shut up! I'll explain later." Most of the records were old operas and Western classical music but when I saw one of the dust jackets that had the Rizal monument on it, I knew I was on to something. Surely, there were kundimans here, I found this and more:

Pressed in Manila, one record contained a Tagalog opera (?) "Sentencia sa Magdaraya" by a certain Ray and Dick; kundiman by Francisco Santiago, sung by soprano Pacita O. Nolasco; kundiman by Bonifacio Abdon, sung by soprano Asuncion Loanco; and on the reverse, the same soprano sings "A las nueve y media," accompanied on the guitar by Juan Silos Jr.; cello solos of compositions by Antonio Molina, "Preludio" and

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



"Romanza" solo and orchestral music by Jose Estela, kundiman by Nicanor Abelardo and much more. To most people these are obscure and forgotten names but I at least knew the composers from the Sunday morning *telebabad* I maintained with the late National Artist Honorata "Atang" de la Rama who would sometimes sing her "greatest hits" to me on the phone.

Most surprising was that many of the records carried Philippine poetry in Spanish: "Bajo las Cañas" and "La Bandera" by Fernando Ma. Guerrero read by Miguel Martin Garcia; "Oriental" by Jesus Balmori and "El Beso Santo" by Fernando Ma. Guerrero, read by Delfina San Agustin; "Ultimo Adios" by Rizal took both sides of a record recited by Miguel Martin Garcia; "Mi Patria" by Fernando Ma. Guerrero (again!) recited by Celia Canseco, accompanied on the piano by Joaquin L. Silos; on the reverse is "Ang Pagsalubong" which is a historical recording by Florentino T. Collantes, 1928 "Hari ng Balagtas"; etc. Imagine a time when people actually listened to poetry and plays?

Carrying my loot, I felt like a dinosaur in the age of the compact disc, VCD and DVD. How was I to play all these at home? Now I had to buy a gramophone. In Casa Tesoro, Mike Nicolas specializes in old gadgets like slot machines and gramophones and I requested his salesgirl to cue the records. I spent the afternoon listening to scratchy recordings of high-pitched singing often used as background music for period films. I'm sure that in many bodegas around the coun-

try we will find more of these records that document pre-war music and taste in the Philippines.

Old photographs are always to be found and though the choices are not as varied as say, 15 years ago, and the prices are rather steep, I still make it a point to view every pre-war photograph in the hope of finding someone famous in a group picture. These photographs mostly from the Sun and Venus photo studios are printed on postcards and thus carry many affectionate greetings in either Spanish, Tagalog or English.

From these photographs it is obvious that women rented costumes from the studio. The most popular was the Japanese geisha dress complete with parasol and fan. I presume the Japanese craze was an offshoot of Jovita Fuentes who is most remembered as the tragic heroine of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly." After the geisha dress, the Igorot outfit was also popular and this came with baskets and other props. I wonder why our delicate low-land Christian Filipinas drew the line on topos costume and wore an Cordillera-style blouse to keep them modest.

Naturally, there are people in trying-hard American fashion, children in sailor suits, even women in fur coats! While one can write a whole thesis on the development of Filipina dress from these pictures, the background runs from decent to whimsy. Imagine, a woman clad in Filipina dress drawing water from a cardboard well, holding cardboard fish by a bubbling brook, or carrying a basket of fruit with a rustic background complete with birds at la Amorsolo. Others sit on elaborately carved chairs, their serpentina trailing on the floor and on the background the interior of a mansion complete with a grand staircase. There are European-style gardens, crescent moons, ships and airplanes. Everything to suit one's fancy and make the historian smile.

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Welcome to the club

A FEW days from now, a friend will be turning 60. Come to think of it, to live through six decades of one's life is already a great privilege; not everybody is given a chance to live to be 60.

A daughter of mine who reached the age of 14 without any significant health problems was suddenly afflicted with a rare disease. She had suffered tremendously for more than 11 years under the care of several medical doctors from different hospitals before she died at the age of 25, five years ago, on Christmas Day.

It took another tragedy to make me accept the sad reality that my daughter was gone for good. Princess Diana's untimely death—she was only in her mid-30s when she died in a vehicular accident—clearly sent the message that if one's time is up, whoever he is, he has to go.

When I myself turned 60 last year, I had that crazy feeling that my happy days were already numbered; that sooner or later, I would have to go into oblivion and step aside for the younger and more aggressive generation.

Looking back now, my first year as a senior citizen was not that traumatic, after all. It was just a matter of accepting the sad reality that man does not live in this world forever. It also helped that the government had shown some degree of concern for the elderly. Thanks to the 20-percent discount privilege granted to the senior citizens on some important items, eating at my favorite restaurants and watching well-crafted movies in cinema houses have become almost a habit with me.

Being a sexagenarian is no big deal to some people. A well-preserved physique may not manifest some health problems typical of those who belong to this age group. Of course, there are food supplements and medicines that could take care of the mental, emotional and other problems of senior citizens.

On my part, my being a sexagenarian does not bother me anymore. I savor whatever comes my way. I have preserved my zest for life. I still dream, because it does not cost me anything to dream. But, I always tell myself—no more big dreams, please!

At this point in my life, what is important is my health, because this will make the people that matter most to me happy.

I may not be as active as I used to be, but I don't have any regrets at all. I strongly feel that I have made the most of what the Lord has given me.

To the other sexagenarians, remember to thank the Lord for what you have gone through the past six decades of your lives. Thank Him not only for the good times but also for the bad times, for your ups and downs, for the lessons you have learned and the friendships that you've gained in this lifetime.

To my friend who will soon experience the thrill of being a sexagenarian, "Welcome to the club!"

Lulu G. Francisco is a CPA. She taught accounting subjects in the University of the East for more than 20 years until 1995 when she retired.

Aging well

Rosario P. Nem Singh

IT could make you cry. You were a bouncy girl just a few years back and now you are old. People who knew you don't recognize you. Taxi and tricycle drivers call you lola. If there are men who stare at you, it wouldn't be for the captivating beauty that you used to be, but probably they want to snatch your bag. It could really make you cry.

So, meditating about old age, you come to a decision. You must beat it. Here's what you should do.

Do something exciting. Like riding the great mountain splash or the giant roller coaster. This is guaranteed to make your heart race and let you forget your angina pectoris for a day.

Men are as old as they feel, women are as old as they look, they say. So, mind your looks. A small dab of orange lipstick will inspire that youthful flush on the cheeks and spark in the eyes, maybe.

Buy a dress once a month. Experiment with a shocking get-up. I myself never wore shorts during my young demure years, but when someone gave me a pair recently, I wore it in the house. That jolted the family and perked me up somehow.

A very sensitive factor is the figure ("what figure?" asks my son Joey). Very sensitive it is when one is advancing in years, with so many parties to attend, having acquired so many friends. A surefire formula for maintaining this figure is complete in four words: "No more, thank you."

But you should not scrimp on vitamins, minerals and protein. Drink your milk morning, noon and night; no coffee, if possible. Eat lots of fruit, to get back the schoolgirl complexion. Eggs and other proteins will repair broken-down tissues.

Also, for toning the muscles are exercises: jogging in place 100 counts in the morning and 100 in the evening; clapping and rubbing the palms together, shaking the wrists up in the air. Do some bending, but not so much, or your bones might break. (Consult a reflexologist, he knows all about this.)

Dancing is very good, not only as an exercise, but for turning back the clock, for remembering young carefree years. Just be careful for dances are not what they used to be. Don't even dare to do an M.C. Hammer! My husband and I went to Faces once with some cousins, and we really had a lovely time. It took some years off.

Laugh and play with your grandchildren—when you're pushing 70 you must surely have some. We ourselves have 12—ages ranging from 2 months to 11, all delightful and loving. Tell them stories or listen to their stories—very educational for all of you. Such moments could even inspire you to write a "Grow and Learn" series and "Mga Kuwentong Kagiliw-giliw."

Be of good cheer. Solve your problems with prayer. At your age, you should know how powerful they are.

Always wear a smile on your face. Do you know that scientists have actually counted and found out that more muscles work in frowning than in smiling? Therefore, hold on to that precious sense of humor.

Smiles do make faces prettier and younger. Especially if your smile is from within, your eyes crinkling and your nose slightly twitching. You'll actually feel your spirit lift and your ripe years fall away. What your smile will do to the person in front of you must be just as wonderful.

Don't be a worrier. The raisin is a grape that worried too much. Don't even worry about your health—only when you can't bear the pain any longer. Now, that's an exaggeration. I should know better for I have lost my poor old gall bladder because I always postponed seeing the doctor about my stomach pains.

Anyway, don't be a hypochondriac. Elderly ladies and gentlemen do develop certain aches and pains. Sometimes the beefsteak you had for lunch go into your leg bones at night, preventing you from sleeping. Bones and joints are the usual sore spots. Sometimes after sitting or kneeling for a long time, you can hardly get up, much less walk, or when you do walk, you look like a tiny-footed Chinese woman. It's worse when you magnify the pain to such proportions that you stop moving altogether.

If you are a retiree, get another job. Edit some magazine or sell "salamangit" (as one retiring principal said she would do). But get out of the house every day. Donate that rocking chair of yours—it's too tempting. Join church and other service groups. They are sure to make life more meaningful and blessed.

Rosario P. Nem Singh is a retired Manila City Schools supervisor. After her retirement, she wrote books for National Book Store, Anvil Publishing and Oro-Gem.

Neither unconstitutional nor hypocritical

I WAS unpleasantly surprised by Dean Jorge Bocobo's commentary titled "The innocent culprit," where he lambasted the practice of having Holy Masses celebrated in government offices. His reason: the same is unconstitutional and hypocritical.

He then advocates "democratic morality" so that "humanity can survive." Nothing is farther from the truth. Religious freedom is a most treasured constitutional right and this includes the celebration of the cult.

Bocobo forgets that at least 87 percent of our people are Catholics so he should not blame "most of us who work in the government (for being) are in fact cul-

turally Catholic."

So the Jubilee Song was sang at the close of the last Senate session of the last millennium? Why fuss about it? Did he or the others want something "neutral" like what Elton John sang in the late Lady Diana's wake "Candle in the Wind"? This goes to show that secularist mentality is still very much in our midst.

Religious tolerance, yes, in the sense of respecting each other's beliefs and practices. It is when one feels one has to limit one's practices to the confines of the church or place of worship that is the root of the deep divide between religious belief and action.

So for Bocobo, I suggest he not take this against these government employees; he should be thankful that, just like the Americans who were rushing out of the collapsing World Trade Center last Sept. 11 shouting "O God!" (ironically, in its "great democracy," America prohibits praying in schools but now they are praying everywhere!) that there are still many people who are participating in the salvific act of the Holy Mass so that God will have mercy on all of us.

And yes, we love our brother Muslims and one should not think that we scorn their religion just because we are practicing ours. In fact, there are many things which



can unite Muslims and Christians as we were all descended from Abraham's stock. What we need, most of all, is respect for the dignity of man and this is very much taught to us by our religion.—**DINA D. LUCENARIO, P.O. Box 2028, MCPO**

Tired of DAR's old promises

I WOULD like to thank Facundo Palafox V, head executive assistant of the Department of Agrarian Reform, for his response (published on Oct. 3) to my commentary last Sept. 28 titled, "Unresolved issues of CARP."

Palafox asked the Institute on Church and Social Issues to check first "the veracity of the information supplied by their sources before printing their accusation." He further wrote that while I was correct in mentioning that a dialogue was held with the Task Force Mapalad representatives picketing the DAR office soon after they camped out, I failed to note that the dialogue did not end that day, and that DAR officials talked with the representatives almost on a daily basis.

I have been closely monitoring the DAR for a number of years now, even going to Negros to talk to farmworkers and looking into the status of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program implementation. I and another Icsi staff member have also been with the farmworkers picketing the DAR office, so we know what has actually been going on.

I am aware of the fact that DAR officials do indeed, almost on a daily basis, inform Task Force Mapalad representatives that they will look into their situation. But again, as I have said, we are tired of hearing promises. I trust that the DAR would exert the same effort in proving that it can implement genuine agrarian reform, especially in Negros, as it does responding to "accusations."—**ANDREA SOCO, Institute on Church and Social Issues, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City**



Make Manila great again

THE GRAND plan of Mayor Lito Atienza to bring back the City of Manila to its former grandeur, as reported in the INQUIRER's Metro section last Oct. 7, 2001, is most welcome to an old Manila resident that I am. Although I was born in Iloilo City, I have spent 65 consecutive years of my life in Manila and lived through its past glory days. I have roamed its streets with my buddies as a newsboy during the

Japanese occupation, peddling copies of the Manila Tribune in the morning and Taliba in the afternoon which we directly procured at the old TVT Building on Florentino Torres Street. (TVT stood for Tribune, Van Guardia and Taliba, the English, Spanish and Tagalog issues, respectively, of the paper.)

At this stage in my life, I am immensely saddened by the way Manila is being outshone by its sur-

rounding cities which were nothing but boondocks before.

Whether Mayor Atienza is solely motivated by a sincere desire to bring Manila to its former grandeur or whether he has an eye for reelection in 2004, as Jerome Aning seems to hint, is immaterial. He deserves the full support of all Manilans in his endeavor.—**REYNALDO I. IBAY, Amatista Street, San Andres, Manila**

RP should fight local terrorists first

THE PHILIPPINES should not rush into a war it cannot even win in its own backyard. Have we forgotten the Abu Sayyaf? Amid all the hype for the United States' great war against international terrorism embodied in its unrelenting pursuit of Osama bin Laden, we seem to have forgotten our very own homegrown, internationally trained terrorist group, the Abu Sayyaf, which up to now is still spreading its own brand of terror in Mindanao. How can we even think

of sending troops for the international coalition when all our Armed Forces combined cannot even subdue a local bandit group?

The Abu Sayyaf is still at large. Our countrymen in Mindanao, Christians and Muslims alike, still live in the shadow of that fear daily. The relatives of the members of the Abu Sayyaf's many victims are twice victimized. First, by the terrorists who deprived them of their loved ones. Secondly, by a government which cannot give them justice.

I am not saying we should not help the United States. Even before the tragic collapse of the Twin Towers, we Filipinos have seen and experienced the effects of conscienceless terrorism in our own country. The Abu Sayyaf leaders themselves are rumored to be graduates of Bin Laden's specialized terrorist camps. It would, no doubt, be in our best interest if the terrorist camps in Afghanistan were rooted out.

However, justice for the United

States must never supersede justice for Filipinos—not here in our own country. Let us take care of our own first. If we must go to war against terrorism, let us first fight the ones lurking in our own country.

For how could we hold our heads up high in any joint fight against international terrorism when our country itself is a continuing example of futility in the war against terrorism?—**MARY GRACE A. LEE, University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City 6100**

Murder suspects still roaming free

THIS is in connection with the article titled "Whatever happened to Cebu mayor's murder case?" written by Armin P. Adina of the INQUIRER's research department and published last Aug. 25, 2001.

Being the wife of the late Pompio Bueros, I am very concerned that, despite the order of the court to arrest the accused, Crisologo Abines and his bodyguards Jesus Cortes, Roque Paras and Romeo Ganad are still free and roaming around the

town of Santander, displaying their firearms and harassing its residents, especially the people of Liloan and Santander, where Abines and Cortes reside.

My children and I are earnestly appealing to the authorities concerned and the Sandiganbayan's Third Division to tell us why up to now the four accused have not been arrested.—**AIDA D. BUREROS, Santander, Cebu**

Deadline set was impossible

IN RESPONSE to the respective columns of Conrado R. Banal III which were published last Sept. 27 and Oct. 4 on the impasse between the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) relative to the reinsurance of the former's pieces of property, we wish to clarify the following matters:

(1) We find it amusing that Napocor president Jesus Alcorido allegedly favors the Aon Corp. For the record, I have been president of Aon for three years and have never had the privilege of meeting Alcorido in person.

(2) Ayala Aon was not the original winner of the GSIS-sponsored Napocor Industrial All Risk (IAR) Insurance bid in March 1999. The initial winner was the combine of ALS Insurance Services and Willis Corroon (the world's third largest insurance broker) upon opening of the various quotes on March 5, 1999

at the GSIS headquarters due to their having the lowest bid of US\$2.9 million. Ayala Aon placed second with a quote of US\$3.215 million.

(3) ALS and Willis Corroon were given almost three weeks by the GSIS to fully place the Napocor IAR program both in the local and international reinsurance markets since the Napocor IAR policy was due to expire on March 31, 1999. However, unfortunately, they failed to meet the requirements of the GSIS.

(4) Hence, on March 23, 1999, the GSIS transferred the "Broker of Record" appointment to Ayala Aon with the caveat that we need to place 90 percent of the entire program within three days from its date of advice. As the second best bidder, we were awarded the order to proceed after nearly three weeks of ALS and Willis Corroon vainly trying to fully place said account. The three-day deadline imposed by the GSIS to place 90 percent of the en-

Military, diplomatic pitfalls after US strikes

WASHINGTON—For all the bombs and bombast of the US strikes on Afghanistan, the latest front in Washington's war on terrorism is still clouded by military uncertainty and potential diplomatic pitfalls, analysts say.

They said that despite the offensive launched Sunday against the Taliban regime, there was no guarantee US-led forces could make much headway in their main objective of wiping out terrorist networks in the central Asian country.

And the longer the campaign continues, the greater the chance of cracks emerging in the fragile anti-terrorist coalition assembled by the United States after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

"The risk is that we will have a repeat of the Saddam Hussein scenario," said Middle East expert James Noyes, referring to the sympathy for Iraq generated among Arab states since the Gulf War.

"The Middle East countries will see this as a punishment of the Afghan people," said Noyes, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Near Eastern, African and South Asian affairs.

The missile and air strikes were ordered after the Taliban rejected US demands they turn over Islamic militant Osama bin Laden and dismantle his al-Qaeda network, blamed for the kamikaze attacks on the United States.

Officials here said US and British forces targeted Afghan airfields, air defense sites and command centers to secure command of the skies and clear the way for ground operations by the Afghan opposition and US special forces.

But Pentagon officials acknowledge privately that a ground offensive could be a fruitless proposition against a primitive and poorly equipped group such as the Taliban which lacks a "center of gravity" to attack.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld alluded to the problem when he told reporters Sunday that Afghanistan did not hold "a lot of high value targets"—no armies, air forces or navies.

For this reason, Rumsfeld said, diplomacy, intelligence and financial pressure would remain critical weapons in what he termed "this so-called war."

Some officials and analysts have suggested the United States wage war by proxy and support the Northern Alliance resistance guerrillas. But others say this may end up substituting one truculent regime in Kabul for another.

The diplomatic front was just as problematic, as the United States waited to retaliate for its terrorist hit until it had forged an unprecedented coalition of friends and foes for support.

The drive was sealed only Saturday after trips by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to Pakistan, Russia and India, and by Rumsfeld to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Uzbekistan and Turkey.

Of particular concern was Pakistan, which was the only country to retain ties to the Taliban, but which served as a key US ally and allowed the use of its airspace for Sunday's raids.

The attacks triggered protests in several Pakistani cities by pro-Taliban radical students and Islamic groups. They also further prompted a plea from Islamabad to keep the campaign contained.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf said Monday that he was assured by Washington that the US military action against Afghanistan will be "short and targeted."

"An ideal operational scenario is a short, sharp targeted action followed as fast as possible by a very balanced political dispensation and rehabilitation effort," he said.

Musharraf added that he had sought and received assurances from the United States and Britain that a "friendly" Afghan government would be the outcome of military action against the Taliban regime.

Musharraf also called Monday for a "major rehabilitation" plan for Afghanistan following the military action to stamp out alleged terrorists.

Analysts have said a big risk for any US-led offensive in Afghanistan was the possibility of clashes between pro and anti-US forces in Pakistan. Said Noyes: "If that gets out of hand, we'd be in deep problems."

US officials were also treading a fine diplomatic line between Pakistan and its subcontinent archrival India as they sought to keep both committed to the global push against terrorism.

A senior official said Sunday that US Secretary of State Colin Powell would travel to both countries in the coming days to shore up support and try to keep the two nuclear powers from coming to blows.

In the Middle East, most countries refrained from taking an immediate stand on the military strikes. The exceptions were Israel, which strongly approved, and Iraq and Iran, which condemned the operations.

Scott Lasensky, a Middle East expert with the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, said the main challenge for Washington in its offensive was to keep expectations down among the US public and allies.

He said the address by President George W. Bush announcing the attacks conspicuously omitted the name of Bin Laden and included the masterstroke of coupling missiles with food drops for Afghan refugees.

"I was heartened by his speech," Lasensky said. "He didn't personalize to Osama bin Laden, didn't talk about going beyond al-Qaeda and the Taliban, and he coupled it with the humanitarian aspect. Getting it right is so critical."

AFP

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tire program was impossible for any entity, particularly owing to the immensity of the property sum insured involved amounting to US\$10.38 billion. Moreover, as a result of ALS and Willis Corroon's activities during those few weeks, the Napocor was considered a distressed risk in the marketplace. It was our considered opinion that in order to complete 100 percent placement at Aon's terms, it would not be possible to effectively do so within the three-day time frame. Aon still maintains today that if we have been provided ample time, we would have fully completed placement of the Napocor IAR at our quoted terms.

program to this date. Jardine Lloyd Thompson quoted at over US\$5 million giving it the room to maneuver on the program's pricing.

(6) Lastly, if the GSIS were "truly" disappointed with Ayala Aon and Aon Corp., why did the GSIS prequalify and invite Aon as one of the exclusive bidders for the 2001 Napocor IAR Renewal, per GSIS senior vice president Julio R. Navarrete's letters as late as Sept. 24 and as early as Sept. 3? This is truly perplexing!

Anyhow, we just wanted to set the facts straight as to what transpired during the GSIS-sponsored 1999 Napocor IAR bid. All we wish at Ayala Aon is nothing more than a "level-playing field" of competition for the benefit of the Napocor and the Filipino taxpayers.—**JAMES G. MATTI, president, Ayala Aon Risk Services Inc., 4th Floor, Tower One, Makati Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Anthrax alarm heightens

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida—Concern over an imminent biological attack was heightened yesterday as the FBI continued to probe two cases of anthrax, prompting the testing of hundreds of colleagues of the affected men, one of whom has already died.

In the wake of the attacks on Sept. 11 in New York, Washington and in Pennsylvania, the administration of President George W. Bush has stepped up safeguards against the threat of biological attacks, with

airborne dissemination of anthrax or other bacteria among the greatest sources of concern.

US Attorney General John Ashcroft said reports of a second man being infected with the rare bacteria in Florida was being treated "very seriously."

"We have not ruled out anything at this time," Ashcroft told reporters Monday. "We regard this as an investigation that could become a criminal investigation."

"We are taking the matter very seriously," he added, though he noted there was not yet enough information available to say whether the cases could be terrorist-related.

A 63-year-old photo editor, Robert Stevens, at the Sun tabloid in Boca Raton, Florida, died Friday at a local hospital after apparently inhaling anthrax spores.

Days later his colleague, a 73-year-old mailroom employee from the same building, was admitted to hospital showing signs of having been infected by the same bacteria. He was in stable condition, Florida health officials said late Monday, as the bacteria were detected quickly.

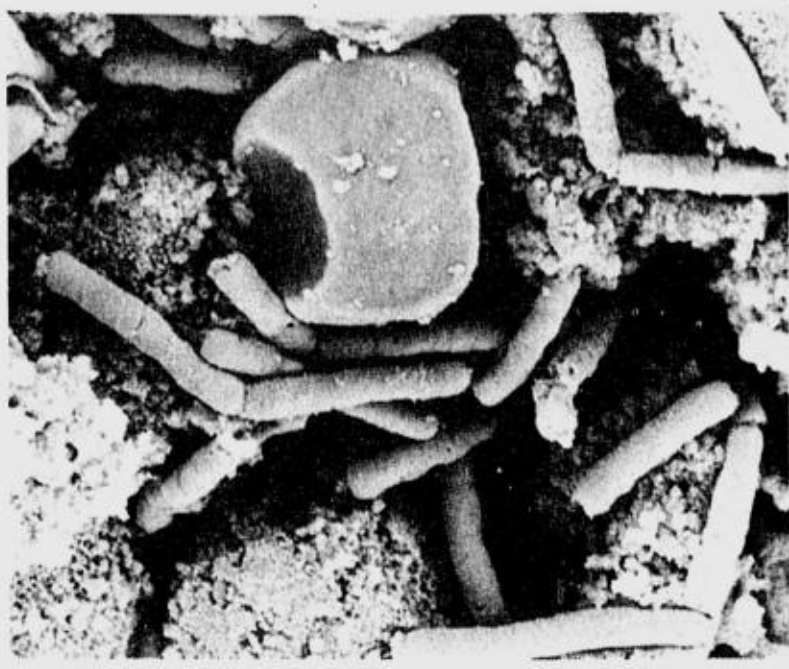
A spokesperson for the Florida health department, Frank Penela, said the man "does not have the illness but that a nasal swab was

done and he tested positive."

He was being tested to see how the bacteria had entered his system after investigators and health officials found traces of the diseases in swabs taken from his nose and on Stevens' keyboard.

Separately, eight members of two families in the Miami suburb of Hialeah were under observation after reporting they received some white powder through the mail over the weekend.

Though preliminary lab reports concluded the substance was not toxic, a health services spokesperson said three of the patients were suffering from slight fevers. **AFP**



BACILLUS anthracis vegetative cells are pictured in a monkey spleen in this undated photomicrograph from the US Department of Defense website. Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacteria bacillus anthracis. **AP**

Allied forces might attempt to settle old scores—Iraq

DUBAI—If US and British forces target Iraq using the pretext of terrorism, it would be "to settle old scores," Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri said yesterday.

"The United States and its allies know very well that Iraq had nothing to do with the groups Washington accuses of being 'behind the attacks' in New York and Washington last month," Sabri told Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite television channel.

"If the United States and its British ally want to widen attacks on Iraq under the pretext of terrorism, that would reflect their desire to settle old scores with Iraq," the minister said.

He warned that if strikes were aimed at Iraq, "we will resist with all our means."

Sabri described as "normal" a reference made by prime terror suspect Osama bin Laden to the suffering of the Iraqi people and the Palestinian issue to justify his hostility to the United States.

"Iraq and Palestine are two issues that raise sadness, suffering and pain among millions of Muslims in the world and the reference made to Iraq and Palestine is normal and common among all Muslims," he said.

"I don't think we need to read any other meaning into this reference," he added.

Shortly after the start of US-British strikes on Afghanistan on Sunday night, Bin Laden championed the cause of long-suffering Palestinians and sanctions-hit Iraqis in an address to rally the world's 1.2 billion Muslims behind his "jihad" to liberate the cradle of Islam from US forces.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the sole Arab leader not to have condemned the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, denounced the strikes on Afghanistan, whose Taliban regime has refused to hand over Bin Laden.

US and British forces led a coalition force in the 1991 Gulf War that evicted Iraqi forces from Kuwait after a seven-month-long occupation.

Their planes still enforce self-imposed no-fly zones in the north and south of Iraq. **AFP**

2 Americans, German claim Nobel Physics

STOCKHOLM—Americans Eric Cornell and Carl Wieman along with Wolfgang Ketterle of Germany won on Tuesday the Nobel Physics Prize for discovering principles governing the behavior of matter, the Nobel jury said.

The trio were awarded the 2001 prize "for the achievement of Bose-Einstein condensation in dilute gases of alkali atoms, and for early fundamental studies of the properties of the condensates," according to the citation.

Cornell, 39, is a senior scientist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the United States and professor adjoint at the University of Colorado, while Wieman, 50, is a physics professor at the same university.

The pair conducted their research together, while Ketterle, a 43-year-old physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, worked independently. The three succeeded in achieving Bose-Einstein condensation in 1995, building on the theory developed by Indian physicist S.N. Bose in 1924 and later extended by Albert Einstein.

Cornell, Wieman and Ketterle will share the prize sum of \$1 million.

The three will receive their prize, along with the other Nobel laureates, from the hands of Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf at the official ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of the prizes' creator, Swedish scholar and inventor Alfred Nobel.

Last year, the prize went to Zhores Alferov of Russia, Herbert Kroemer of Germany and Jack Kilby of the United States for groundbreaking research that laid the foundations for IT technology. **AFP**

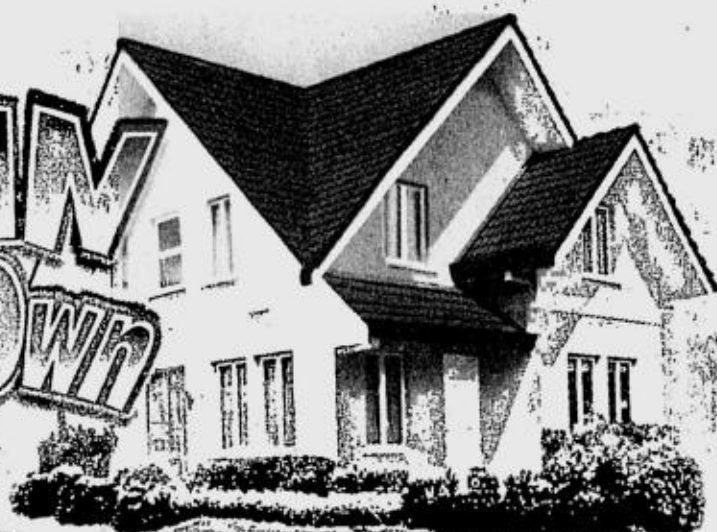


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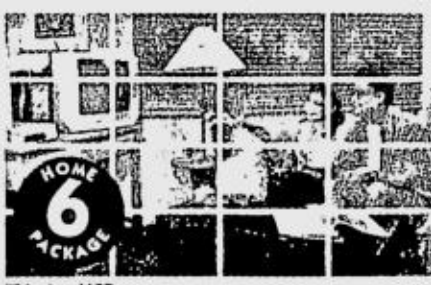


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P 6M to P 7,999,999.99	Dining Set
P 8M to P 9,999,999.99	Living Room Set
P 10M and above	50.8 cm (20") TV plus VCD Player

5. Claim certificates will be released together with the loan documents after each booking.

6. Gifts can be claimed at designated redemption centers.

7. Redemption of prizes is until January 31, 2002. After such date, unclaimed gifts will be forfeited in favor of BPI Family Bank with prior DTI approval.

8. Should the client require delivery of appliances / furniture, delivery fees will be charged to the client's account.

9. In case client's gift items are temporarily out of stock, client will be advised by the redemption center as to when specific item will be available or client may choose another item of equivalent value.

10. This offer cannot be combined with other ongoing offers of BPI / BPI Family Bank.

11. All employees of BPI UNIBANK, its subsidiaries and its advertising agency are disqualified from joining the promo.

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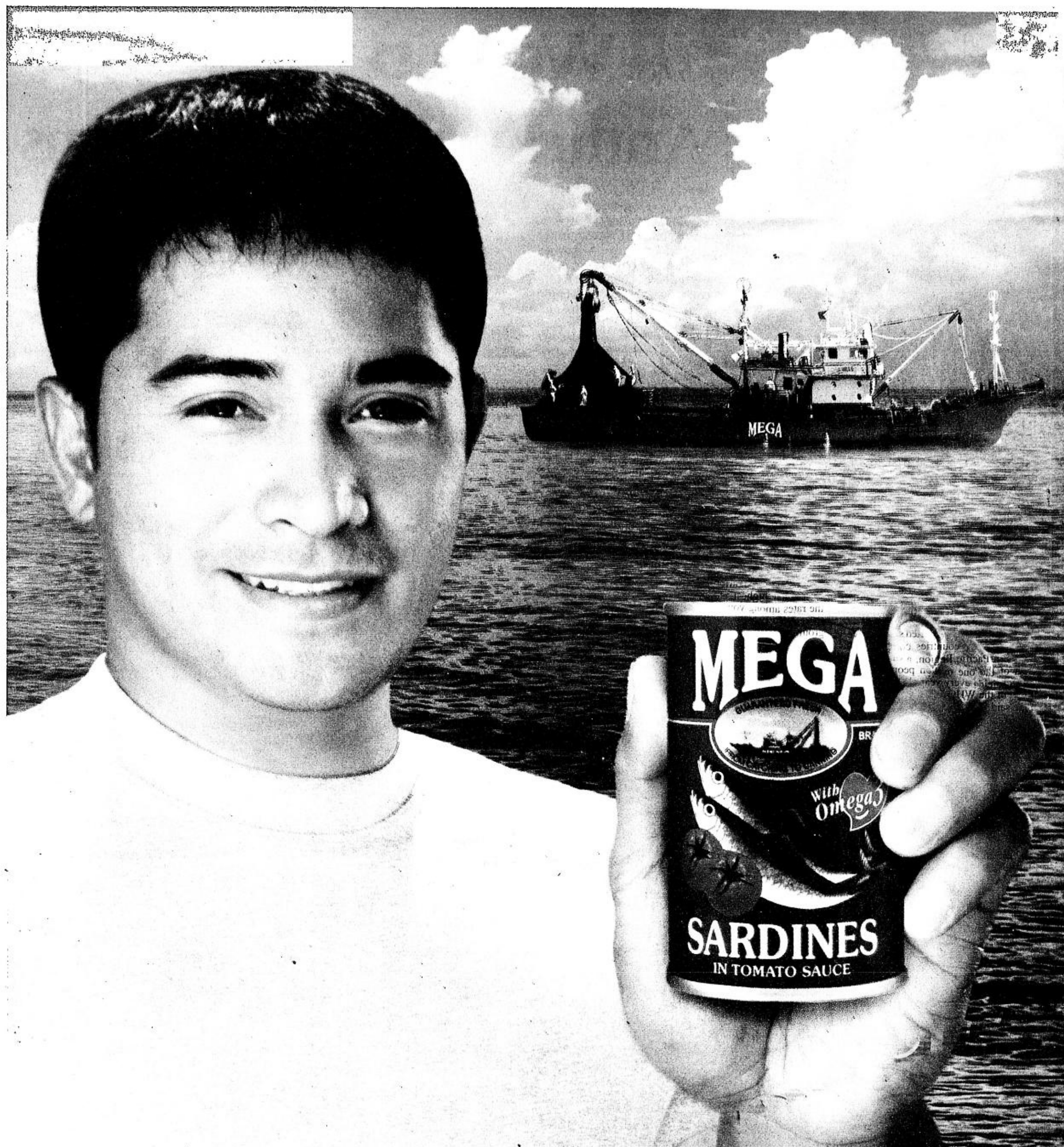
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At least 118 dead in SAS crash



THE WRECKED tail of the SAS airliner is seen on the runway of the Milan Linate airport Oct. 8. The plane, an MD 87 with about 104 passengers and six crew members, hit a Cessna plane that crossed its path, swerved off the runway and crashed into a baggage handling depot. AFP

MILAN—At least 118 people were killed at Milan's Linate airport on Monday in a runway collision between a Scandinavian Airlines SAS jet preparing for take-off and a small Cessna plane preparing for a demonstration flight.

The crash was Italy's worst air disaster in nearly 30 years.

The jet was approaching take-off speed when it hit the Cessna in heavy fog. It ploughed into an airport baggage hangar, killing four airport ground staff, before splitting in two and bursting into flames, officials said.

They said all 110 people—104 passengers and six crew—aboard the Copenhagen-bound airliner died, as well as the four people in the Cessna, who included a European director of the US-based light-plane company.

Italy's Transport Minister Pietro Lunardi said 56 of the passengers were Italian and 48 were foreign nationals.

In Copenhagen, police commissioner Bjarne Vilsboell said 16 were Danes and two other victims were foreigners living in Denmark.

Helsinki news agency FNB said

the dead were thought to include six Finns.

The two Italian businessmen aboard the Cessna died along with its two German pilots.

SAS said in a statement that the airliner crew was composed of Swedish pilots Joakim Gustafsson and Anders Hyllander, both 36, Swedish steward Olaf Jakobsson, 49, and Danish air hostesses Lise Lott Andersen, 57, Janne Penttinen, 30, and Eiler S. Danielsen, 27.

Lunardi told reporters at the airport that the ground staff killed worked for Linate's SEA management company at the baggage warehouse, sited some 500 meters from the normal take-off point for airliners.

Four survivors from among the ground staff were being treated in hospital, at least two with serious burns, officials said.

Italy's Civil Aviation Authority, Enav, blamed pilot error for the crash.

It said the German pilot of the Cessna had taken a wrong turning onto the runway being used by the airliner as it was approaching take-off speed. AFP

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Suicides among young in Asia mounting, says WHO

SUICIDE is a rising health problem in Asia, particularly among the young people in China and the Pacific islands and Japanese men, the World Health Organization reported on Tuesday.

There are 1,100 reported suicides every day in the 37 countries comprising the Western-Pacific Region, a small proportion of the one million people who die from suicide every year globally, a statement of the WHO Western Pacific office here said.

However, actual figures for the region may be 20 times higher since many cases

go unreported, it added.

"Although traditionally suicide rates have been highest among elderly men, the rates among young people have risen to such an extent that they are now the group most at risk in some countries," said WHO regional director Shigeru Omi.

It cited the Pacific islands, where suicide has reached "epidemic proportions" among young men aged between 15 and 24, with rates rising by 16 times from the early 1960s to the 1980s.

Suicides among men are also higher than the global average in Japan with 26

cases per 100,000 people.

In China, suicide is the leading cause of death among women aged 20 to 34, the WHO said, remarking that rural women succeed in killing themselves far more than urban women, partly because they can easily obtain agricultural pesticides.

The WHO also said "in Singapore and Australia, suicide rates have been reported to be growing" although it did not provide figures.

Among the causes cited for suicides were changes in socioeconomic status including employment and living conditions.

Easy access to poisons and guns is also another key factor while crises, like the loss of a loved one, can also trigger suicide.

The WHO also blamed mental disorders such as depression and schizophrenia as well as drug and alcohol abuse, saying people with such afflictions had a higher rate of suicide.

The WHO recommended restricting access to agricultural pesticides or guns to deter suicide and also called for improved treatment of mental disorders in the region. AFP

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Cebu City police chief, men probed on P1.8-M bribery

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A bribery scandal is rocking the city police office.

Supt. Hiram Binatiro, city police chief, and officers of the detective bureau are facing investigation following reports that they received P1.8 million in exchange for the release of a Taiwanese, an alleged member of the Hong Kong Triad.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas, formed a five-man task force to investigate Binatiro and SPO3 Perfecto "Roy" Codifera, head of the detective bureau.

Also being investigated were policemen from the detective bureau who were involved in the arrest of Nanan Jimenez, his brother Jovan, and Victor Ceniza, alleged illegal drug couriers of the Taiwanese.

Razon said he gave the team, headed by Supt. Alejandro Lapinid, until Friday to submit a report.

He said he wanted to present the report during the hearing of a congressional inquiry on illegal drugs. The inquiry is being conducted by the House committee on dangerous drugs chaired by Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco.

Lapinid gave assurance that there would be no

whitewash in the investigation. "Definitely, no stone will be left unturned and the truth should come out," he said.

Razon ordered the investigation after reading a news story from the Cebu Daily News on Sunday that the policemen had received a P1.8-million bribe in exchange for the release of Taiwanese Chang Weng Kuan, an alleged member of the drug triad in Hong Kong.

The report, quoting a well-placed source from the police, said Binatiro gave the blessing to his men when they received the money.

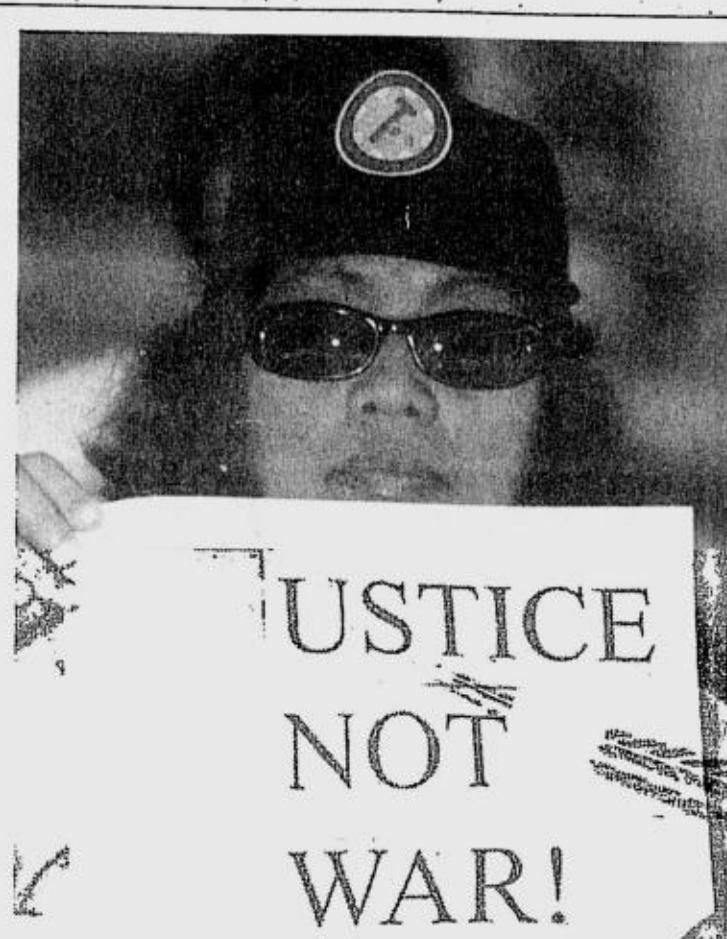
Binatiro welcomed the investigation, saying he had not received any bribe money.

He said he was not even aware of the Taiwanese's arrest in the operation because he merely relied on reports submitted by his men.

Codifera, who headed the operation, said they failed to arrest Chang after the local media reported the arrest of the Jimenez brothers and Ceniza.

He said the three suspects tried to bribe them with P100,000, but they turned down the offer. The money was shown during the press conference on Sept. 10 when the suspects were presented.

Binatiro said the suspects had also offered him P3 million, but he, too, refused to receive the money.



ANTI-US RALLY

Members of the "Justice, Not War" coalition hold a picket condemning the US bombing of targets in Afghanistan at the Osmeña Park in Davao City on Tuesday.

RYAN LIM

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 21°
Laosig	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 22°
Lagazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Layosa, PDI Research/10/10/01

ROUNDUP

Anti-terrorist task force

BAGUIO CITY—The Bureau of Immigration is creating a task force that will combat possible terrorist attacks here. BI officials said the task force would be patterned after the Task Force Agila formed by the BI regional office in San Fernando City and the Bureau of Customs following the terrorist attacks in the United States on Sept. 11. Antonio Prieto, BI alien control officer here, said Baguio, as a tourism capital, should form its own task force to protect people from terrorists.

Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Computer shops warned

BAGUIO CITY—Defying a city ordinance, many computer shops are allowing minors to play computer games during class time, reports showed. Betty Pangasan of the city social welfare and development office said more than 200 pupils had been reprimanded for hanging around computer shops during class hours. She said her office had warned computer shops and other firms that they would be closed for violating the city ordinance. Jovelyn Reyes, Allan Macatuno and Katrine Sales, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

No affiliation

CABANATUAN CITY—Nueva Ecija Rep. Raul Villareal laughed off his reported expulsion from the Nationalist People's Coalition. "I'm not a member of the NPC," Villareal said. He said that in early August, he informed Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. in a letter that he has no party affiliation. Reports said Villareal was expelled from the party for throwing a tantrum while members of the House of Representatives were discussing the anti-money laundering bill last week.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cop shot dead

CABANATUAN CITY—A policeman from Gapan City was shot and killed last week inside a bus by a man he rebuked for waking him up. Reports said the victim, P03 Rolando Padilla, 41, boarded the bus here on the night of Sept. 28 but fell asleep. Reports said Padilla was awakened by the man and was told that he was nearing his destination. Padilla reportedly resented being touched and reprimanded the man, said to be a fellow policeman. When Padilla was about to alight, the man stood up, drew his gun and shot Padilla several times. The assailant fled on foot.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Soldier, rebel killed

DAVAO CITY—A government soldier and a member of the New People's Army were killed in an encounter in Sitio Maligatong, Barangay Magwawa in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, on Thursday night. Lt. Col. Eduardo del Rosario, chief of the 73rd Infantry Battalion, identified the slain soldier as Pfc. Henry Anito. The rebel has remained unidentified. Del Rosario said the clash lasted 15 minutes.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Navy official dies

COTABATO CITY—Navy Commodore Reuben Doria died of cancer at the De los Santos Hospital in Manila, barely six months after he was promoted to one-star general. Doria, 54, was the Coast Guard commander in the Davao-Cotabato-Socarsgen District and later became the CG Northern Luzon Command chief until his demise. He was to be buried at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City on Oct. 9. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Charlie Señas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

P150-M for agro park

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The Cotabato provincial government is setting aside P150 million to put up an agro-industrial park in M'lang town. Anthony Bravo, provincial trade and industry officer, said the agro-industrial park would be the first of its kind in Central Mindanao. He said the government has bought a 27-hectare land in Barangay Pag-as for the park. Bravo said the park would help boost the province's economy.

Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Rice importation hit

NAGA CITY—The National Confederation of Irrigators Associations (NCIA), the biggest farmers group organized by the government, has rejected a move to allow the private sector to directly import rice following the decision of the government to liberalize the rice industry. Silvestre Bonto, NCIA trustee, said the group's stand was formed up during a recent caucus. Bonto said the government, which was forced to liberalize rice importation as a condition for the release of the second tranche of the Grains Sector Development Program, should find better deals than castigating the rice industry. He said the opening of rice importation to the private sector would flood the market with cheap rice that will benefit only rice traders.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Jail execs confirm shabu trade

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Officials at the provincial jail here on Tuesday confirmed the existence of a drug trade within the jail premises, following the discovery of shabu inside one of the cells.

Benzon Cadiente, officer-in-charge of the provincial jail, said 15 packets of shabu, weighing 0.7 grams, were found inside the cell of Silvestre Garcia, 28, following a routine inspection by jail guards.

The packets of shabu, which were found stuffed inside a plastic film canister, were being sold to inmates for P100-P200 each.

Police said Garcia allegedly bought the drugs for P1,500 from one Fely Gamido during a visit to her

husband, Virgilio Gamido, also an inmate here.

When invited for questioning, Fely Gamido denied the allegations, police said.

Cadiente dismissed reports that the shabu was sneaked inside the premises with the cooperation of security personnel.

"It is not that (the jail guards) are lax," he said. "We could not just search the body of women because we are also aware of their rights."

"We are undermanned. We do not have enough women jail guards, who will do (the body search) on women visitors," he added.

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

5 NPA suspects killed

DUPAX DEL SUR, Nueva Vizcaya—Five suspected members of the New People's Army were killed while two soldiers were wounded in a clash on Monday in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija, Army reports here said.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER said a 30-minute gun fight ensued between 20 suspected rebels under the command of one Ka Arnold of the NPA's Nueva Ecija Front Committee and soldiers from Army camps here and in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

The encounter occurred about 1 p.m. Army reports did not identify the fatalities. Their bodies were taken to a funeral parlor in Pantabangan.

Wounded were Capt. Rogelio Eligino, commanding officer of the Army's 51st Reconnaissance Company, and Sgt. Melchor Rivera. They were airlifted to Fort Magsaysay in Laur, Nueva Ecija.

Army officials said their reports indicated that the rebels were among the NPA band that staged a daytime assault on the town hall and police station of Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya on Dec. 23 last year.

A police officer was killed in that attack. The rebels also took several high-powered firearms, bullets and communications equipment.

Recovered from the clash site in Barangay

Conversion in Pantabangan were an M-30 light machine gun, an M-16 rifle and bullets.

In Bulacan, seven suspected NPA rebels were arrested early Tuesday after they attended the wake of another suspected rebel at Barangay Calumpang in San Miguel town.

Arrested were Robert Veterbo, Nonato de Guzman, Virgilio Valdez, Igmidio Villanueva, Faustino Isidro, Bobet Francisco and Teodoro Flores.

Police said they intercepted the group's van shortly after the suspects left the wake of Alberto Villadon.

Villadon and suspected NPA rebels Roberto Manzano and Anthony Gatao, all of them from Bulacan, were killed on Oct. 4 in Macabebe, Pampanga, after an encounter with police.

Policemen found a Carbine rifle, two .45 cal. pistols, a .357 paltik (homemade) gun, a .38 cal. revolver and bullets in the van.

Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuña, Bulacan police director, said their investigation showed that the suspects were members of the "Militia ng Bayan (People's Militia)," the NPA's counterpart of the barangay tanods (village guards). Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Lawyers press probe of killing

BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

VIGAN CITY—Lawyers in Ilocos Sur are asking police to focus their investigation on the alleged irregular financial transactions of the provincial government from 1996 to 1999 to shed light on the Oct. 4 ambush-slaying of provincial auditor Agustin Chan Jr. and his driver.

In a two-page resolution, members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines-Ilocos Sur chapter said "there is a great probability that Chan was assassinated because of his acts in uncovering the alleged anomalous transactions that were

made by the provincial government."

"It was during the tenure of (Chan) as the provincial auditor of Ilocos Sur that the Special Audit Report No. 99-31 of the Commission on Audit was released to the public. Said report describes in detail the anomalous transactions and projects that were undertaken by the provincial government of Ilocos Sur and its provincial officials from 1996 to 1999," it said.

The SAO Report 99-31 involved P1.2 billion that covered selected provincial government transactions during the term of Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano dismissed the lawyers' accusations as having "no basis."

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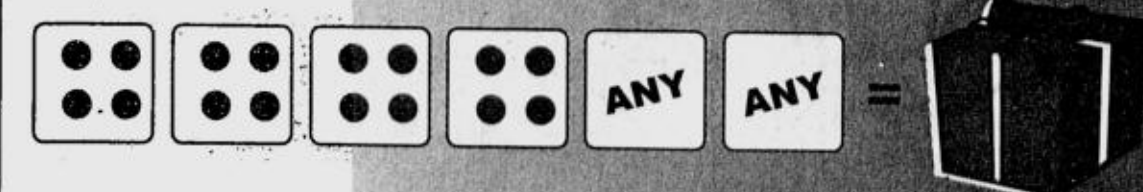
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Woman, 2 children killed in Pampanga

STA. RITA, Pampanga—Residents of this sleepy town were shocked by the killing of a woman and her two children in the farming village of Dila-Dila here on Saturday dawn.

Neighbors found the bodies of Marites Garcia, 28, and her son Edmar, 11, inside the bedroom of their house in Sitio Pipitik in Barangay Dila-Dila.

They died of stab wounds in various parts of their bodies.

Garcia's daughter Lisa, 6, was still alive when found by their neighbors lying beside the bodies of her mother and brother.

Lisa was taken to the Jose Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital in the City of San Fernando where she died two hours later.

Mayor Arthur Salalita said Monday that police had launched a massive hunt for the suspect, a *tinapa*

(smoked fish) and ice cream peddler, who also lives in Sitio Pipitik.

"Our policemen have started searching for the man in places where he could possibly hide. Since Saturday, our policemen have gone as far as Tarlac and Floridablanca town to look for him. We will not stop until the suspect is arrested," he said.

Salalita said the suspect's relatives were cooperating with the police.

Garcia's husband Eduardo was in Manila working as a construction worker when his wife and children were killed.

Quoting the neighbors of the Garcias, the mayor said the suspect was drunk when he committed the crime. "They even described the suspect as gentle when not drunk," he said. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

MORTAR SHELLING

11 hurt in Maguindanao attacks

BY EDWIN FERNANDEZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

CAMP SIONGCO, Maguindanao—Eleven persons, most of them children, were hurt in two separate mortar attacks on Saturday and Monday by suspected Moro rebels in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao, the military here said.

The latest attack occurred at 3:45 a.m. on Monday. Nine members of a household were seriously hurt.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said two 60-mm mortar bombs and M-79 grenades were fired toward Barangay Sebastian in Shariff Aguak.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) quickly denied involvement in the shelling.

Two civilians were also hurt when a mortar was fired at the public market at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Dr. Tahir Sulaik, Maguindanao health chief, identified those wounded in Monday's attack as Kamarudin, 5; Norhana, 1; Karigia, 11; Hadigia, 15; Roy, 18; Sapia, 40; Pangandaman, 6; Keda, 33; and Aleya, 13, all surnamed Alamada.

Sulaik said the victims suffered multiple shrapnel wounds in various parts of their bodies.

Wounded in Saturday's attack were Guabaneja Kamsa, 37, and Datu Ali Fayda, 5, all of Shariff

Aguak, hometown of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan.

Omar Macabangen, speaking for Ampatuan, said those behind the attacks could be MILF members opposed to the provincial leadership.

"It's public knowledge here that the MILF is against the Ampatuans," he said.

Ando said the military has deployed a team of peacekeepers in the boundaries of Shariff Aguak and Mamasapano towns where fighting between two clans erupted Friday.

"It's a firefight between the MILF and the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front)," Ando told the INQUIRER. The fighting has claimed the lives of four MILF members and two

MNLF members, he said.

Kabalu said the MILF had also sent a team of negotiators who will talk with local leaders. He admitted that those involved in the family feud are members of the two fronts.

"This is not an organization fight, we hope we can settle this quickly," he said.

The government and the MILF are scheduled to resume peace negotiations in Kuala Lumpur on Oct. 22.

Kabalu said "this is what we would like to solve. We should settle this problem on the ground before we can have a peace of mind when we sit down with the Philippine government."

'Lumads' air peace proposals in Davao ritual

DAVAO CITY—"Lumad" (indigenous peoples) leaders in Mindanao presented their list of proposals in resolving armed conflict on the island in a symbolic ritual over the weekend at the Ateneo de Davao University's Mini-Forest here.

The seven proposals are contained in a position paper to be given to the government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace panels, which are set to meet for the third round of talks in Kuala Lumpur.

Five tribal leaders led by Datu Kamid Pindoy of the Ubo-Manobo tribe said a prayer asking for providence from Magbabaya for peace in Mindanao and to bless their position paper.

The recommendations included:

- Full recognition and development of ancestral land.

- Full recognition, protection and promotion of lumad right to self-determination.

- Recognition and promotion of lumad participation in the peace talks.

- Recognition, support and respect of the peace zones declared by the lumads throughout Mindanao.

- Recognition and support of lumad definition of ancestral domain.

- Recognition of lumads as productive forces in their representation to consultative bodies of all development processes.

- Special attention to lumad communities affected by the war and the recognition and inclusion of indigenous leaders and communities in the monitoring and evaluation processes.

Presidential Assistant Jesus Dureza, chair of the government peace panel, earlier said that the five-day talks would tackle issues on ancestral domain and rehabilitation and economic development.

Inday Santiago, a member of the government peace panel who also witnessed the ritual, said she would raise the cause of the lumads before the panels.

"We will seriously study their position paper," she said.

Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Episcopal leaders set centennial rites

BAGUIO CITY—Episcopalian and Anglican leaders in the country and abroad will converge in Sagada, Mt. Province, tomorrow to celebrate the centennial of the church's mission in the Philippines.

Although the Episcopal Church first heard Mass for American servicemen on Sept. 4, 1898, centennial organizers decided to set the celebration this month.

It was in October 1901 that the San Francisco (California) General Convention created the Philippines as a missionary district. Bishop Charles Henry Brent, who went on to establish Brent School here, was elected first bishop of the new district.

Bishop Joel Pachao of the Episcopal Diocese of North Central Philippines said the Episcopal Church evangelized in areas where the Catholic Church of Spain had not set jurisdiction.

Most of the early converts came from the Cordillera, Zamboanga, Cotabato and the Chinese population in Manila.

There are now more than 100,000 Episcopalians in the country, mostly from Northern Luzon, Pachao said.

The Episcopal Church was also the first major church here to ordain women priests.

The organizers chose Sagada as venue of the centennial celebration because the resort town is one of the centers of the Episcopalian faith in the country.

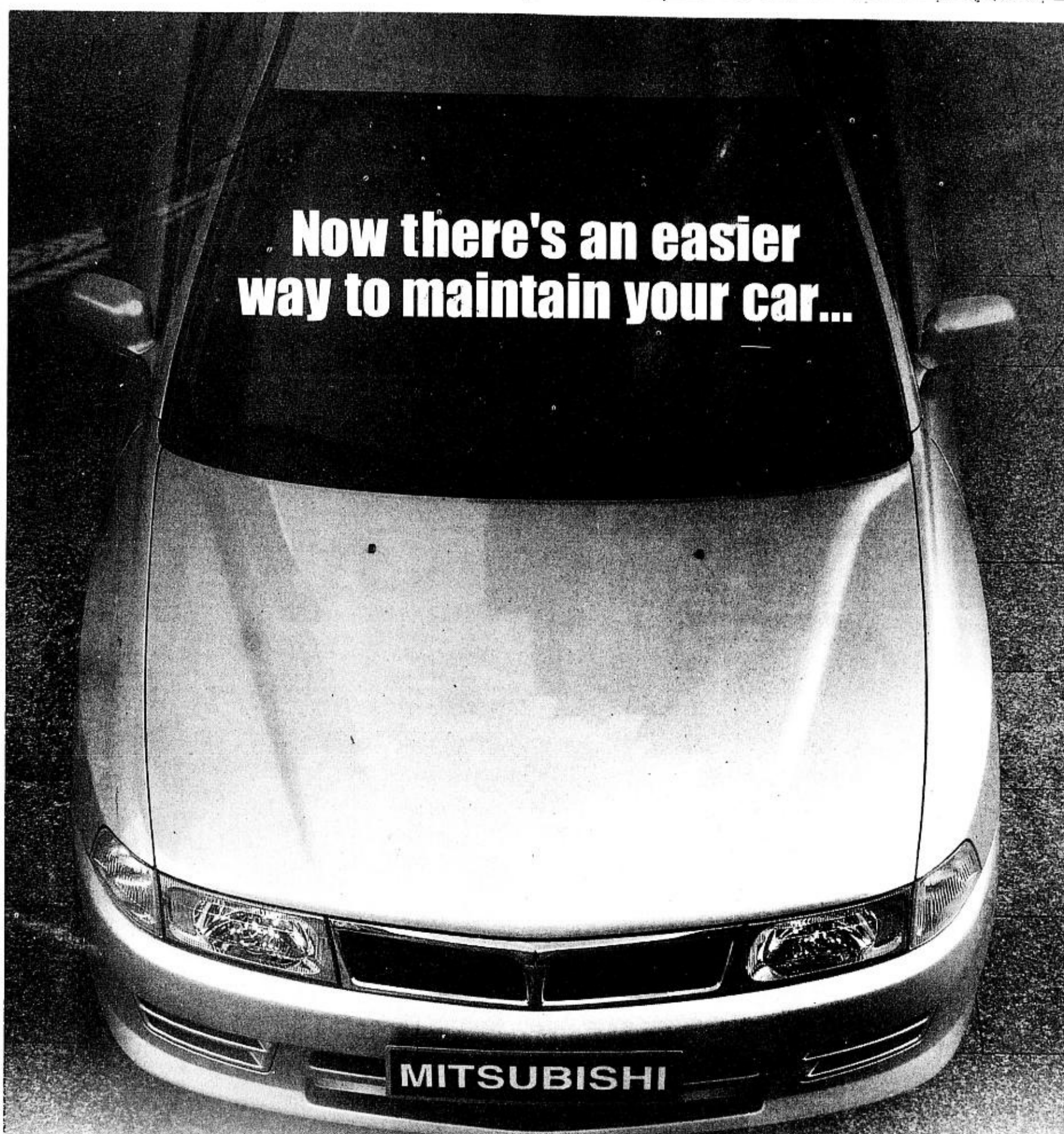
The Mission of St. Mary the Virgin was set up by Fr. John Staunton in 1904, while the Sagada Training School of Lay and Clergy Ministry was set up in 1932.

Episcopalian schools were established at the turn of the century in Bontoc and Besao towns in Mt. Province and Balbalasang and Tabuk towns in Kalinga, making them the center of education in the Cordillera.

The foreign guests will come from the Anglican and Episcopal branches in Hong Kong, Macau, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Singapore and the United States.

"Begnas di Binonyag," a three-act play on the Episcopal Church, will be premiered on Oct. 10 in Sagada. Last week, "Padi Igorot," a musical penned by Dorothy Pucay and Karlo Altamonte, was also presented in Baguio City.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

For upland folk, small is beautiful

BY MAURICE MALANES
La Union**SIZE** does matter in building hydroelectric dams. This is especially so because of a rising national demand for electricity.

From 5,855 megawatts in 1996, electricity demand nationwide will shoot up to 25,564 mw in 2010 and 73,587 mw in 2025, according to the Department of Energy.

But given the conflict that big dams spawn, upland folk—who are most often the losers as a result of building big dams—prefer the small.

Conflict, for example, still shrouds the more than half-done 345-mw San

Roque multipurpose dam project at the Benguet-Pangasinan border.

The Ibaloi folk near the mega-dam project are still restive. They have again vowed to continue opposing the project even as contractors and government proponents rush to beat the 2003 deadline of the \$1.2-billion (P61-billion) facility.

On the other hand, villagers at the foot of the Cordillera ranges in La Union are now at peace with their God. They daily

thank the heavens for having seen the light (of an electric bulb) after groping under the dim light of their kerosene and *saleng* or pine pith lamps for ages.

The upland village of Lon-oy in San Gabriel, La Union, is a direct contrast to the Ibaloi villages of Dalupirip, Tinongdan and Ampucao in Itogon, Benguet, the areas feared to be affected once the San Roque dam's water level rises as a result of siltation.

Beneficiary

Lon-oy is a beneficiary of a 15-kilowatt 'micro-hydro' power project the community and the Episcopal Church conceived and helped implement and which the nongovernment Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya (Sibat) helped

design and supervise. Sibat was able to prod the DOE to provide the P1.5-million fund for the project.

For three years, the community folk—who included not only the men, but also women and teenage youths—dug and cemented a more than kilometer-long diversion canal from the upstream of the Lon-oy River, which leads to a pen stock and power house downstream.

More than six months after Episcopalian Bishop Joel Pachao blessed and inaugurated the micro-hydro power plant in March, local folk have since engaged in various economic livelihoods it has generated.

The 15-kw power facility is mainly for the lighting needs of the more than 1,000 Lon-oy residents, most of them

descendants of Igorot folk from Mt. Province and Benguet.

With a maximum average of 80 watts allotted per household, television sets and other appliances, such as refrigerators and ovens, are not allowed. Otherwise, the community will have to worry about breakdowns due to power overload.

But lighting up 130 households of the village has significantly changed the people's lives.

Instead of burning their midnight kerosene lamps, public school teachers can now work comfortably under bright electric lights, doing their lesson plans or checking papers.

Broom-makers, who used to be at the mercy of daylight, can now make

brooms for sale until late evening. Sitting around a winnowing with newly harvested legumes and beans to peel, members of a family also exchange stories and riddles, sing songs or simply converse before they go to bed.

Early in the morning, members of an association of village women can start baking bread in their liquefied petroleum gas-fueled oven in their newly built bakery, which the Department of Labor and Employment funded. Before, they had to wait for daybreak before baking.

Livelihood projects

Some women have planned other livelihood projects that they can do under electric lights at dawn or late

UPLAND/p.17



An Ibaloi warrior to the end

THE 21-GUN salute the Itogon (Benguet) police rendered when the remains of Lakay Pascual Pocding were laid to rest at the town's veterans' cemetery on Oct. 4 was an apt gesture for a man who had fought serious battles.

A World War II guerrilla veteran, Pocding, barely 16 then, saw, felt and tasted what life in the battle frontlines was like.

For the full-blooded Ibaloi, the prize for all the pains and sufferings he had gone through during the war was simple—settling down and living in peace and harmony in Dalupirip, which, in many forums, he had described as “a paradise.”

He was not romanticizing or overstating something about his home village. Neither was he, who hailed from neighboring Itogon poblacion, merely singing paeans to the village where he fell in love with the woman who would become the mother of his children.

Dalupirip, also described as one of the seats of Ibaloi culture, is certainly an Eden in many ways.

Dalupirip and its two neighboring villages of Tinongdan and Ampucao (aggregate pop. 16,000) were the only areas in Itogon, a predominantly mining town, that did not have to worry about rice rations during a crisis in 1995. The three villages along the Agno River basin are self-sufficient in rice. They also grow both upland and lowland crops.

Dalupirip's food self-sufficiency sustained an anti-Japanese guerrilla unit in World War II, which Pocding, an older brother and some Ibaloi folk organized.

Close to Pangasinan, Dalupirip (some 40 km southeast of Baguio City) and the two villages are warmer than other parts of Benguet. This makes the communities suitable to raising a wide array of fruits, such as mangoes, *atis*, *chico*, avocado, coconut and pineapple.

Only in Dalupirip

Where in the world can you leave your doors open without worrying about thieves barging in or where you need not worry about rustlers hieing off with your working carabao (water buffalo)? And where on earth could you not go hungry as long as you toil?

Only in Dalupirip, the tall, lanky and good-postured elder had said with pride in many an encounter with the press and in other forums.

Articulating about the blessings that the land and resources in Dalupirip and its neighboring villages continue to shower Ibaloi folk was Pocding's way of debunking the supposed benefits of the still controversial \$1.2-billion 345-megawatt San Roque multipurpose dam project.

Citing independent studies, Pocding and his village mates have feared that the dam project will eventually submerge their communities once mine tailings and mountain sediments from upstream fills up the dam's reservoir.

Pocding could not see some wisdom in the dam proponents' rationale of destroying an already self-sufficient community—with all its age-old rice terraces—by flushing it down the drain of the Agno River and relocating displaced folk into uniformly built houses, where families cannot raise pigs or chicken.

For Pocding, it is human folly to destroy a resource-and-culture-rich community, which ancestors had intended to be bequeathed to generations yet unborn.

No wonder the soft-spoken but articulate Ibaloi elder all the more rose up in protest when he learned that bulk of the funding for the San Roque dam project was a loan from a Japanese bank.

“The Japanese tried to decimate us with bullets, and bombs in the last war; now, they are seeking to destroy us with their money,” Pocding had said.

His remarks revealed the sentiments of a man who saw and experienced man's inhumanity to other humans in the last war, which he did not want history to repeat in the form of a mega-dam.

AN IBALOI/p.17

The oldies can afford all the goodies. Find out more about the 17th Philippine Advertising Congress in Cebu on Nov. 21-24, 2001. Only 1000 seats available. Call 1-800-834-8359, fax no. 817-7109.

TARGET:MARKET

Upland . . .

(From page 16)

evening.

Already in their list is processing ginger into *salabat* (ginger tea powder) and other farm crops in season, which they can sell in the market to augment their income.

On the lighter side, the electric lights can help make a couple's night more electrifying, if not romantic.

"Under the bright lights, I can now see the sweet smile of my wife and read her other body languages to signal me to finally go to bed and switch off the lights altogether for a night of passion and romance," a man, in his mid-30s, said in Ilocano.

Accessible through a muddy uphill road after almost three-hours of tough driving from the San Gabriel town proper, Lon-oy is one of 10,000 villages not covered by the state-run National Power Corp.'s grid.

In its Philippine energy plan, the DOE had targeted to energize 1,409 towns by 1996, 35,213 barangays by 2010 and another 10.2 million households by 2018.

The program also aims to bring electricity to 889,912 households by 2025, bringing the total number of households to be energized to 11.1 million.

Under this plan, Lon-oy will be one of the villages to be energized by 2010. Problem is this is only on paper.

Other woes bug the government's rural electrification program. This is not only because government has to displace people as a result of building mega-dams or sacrificing public health and safety in exchange for coal-fired power plants.

Rural electrification through the Napocor's conventional grid areas is too costly for rural folk to afford—what with the power purchase agreement or PPA, which is an added burden to the regular billing for consumers.

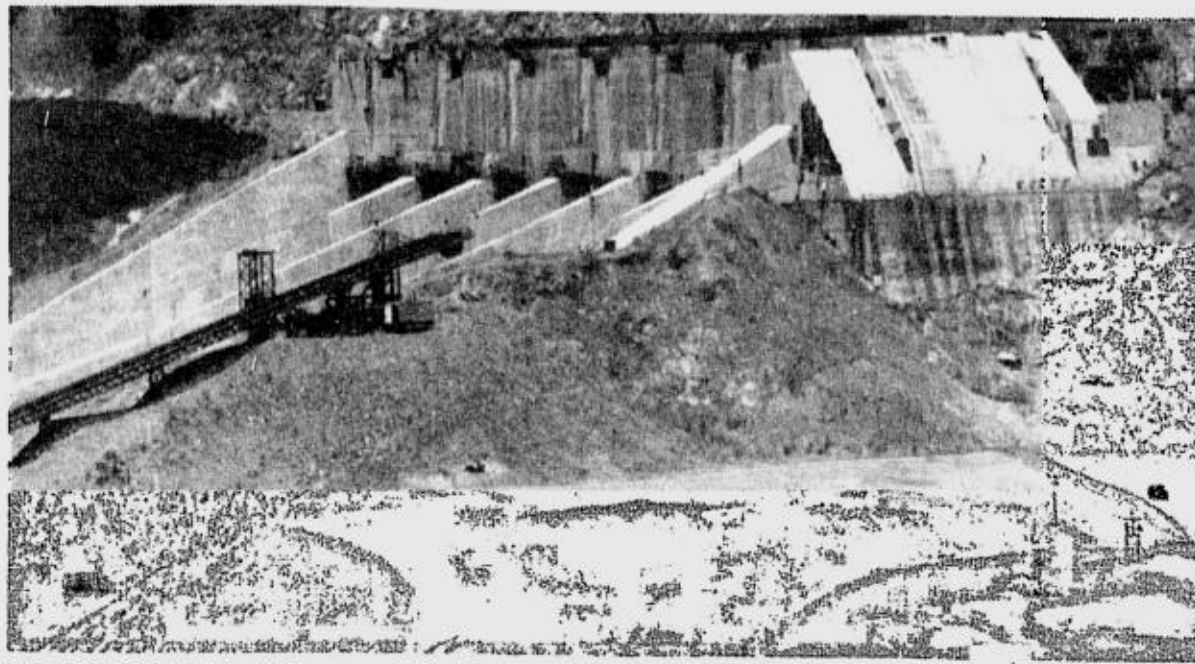
Rural villagers can hardly pay the cost of electricity once the Napocor seeks to impose bills based on rates that it hoped would regain investments and earn profit, said Victoria Lopez of Sibit.

Best alternative

For off-grid areas, where the poorest of the poor live, the best alternative, according to Lopez, are community-based and community-run micro-hydro power projects.

Citing success stories other than Lon-oy's, Lopez said community-based and community-run small renewable energy projects were the least costly and, thus, "more affordable and sustainable."

For villages such as the Cordillera hinterlands, the most appropriate and



THE SPILLWAY of the 345-megawatt San Roque multipurpose dam project at the Benguet-Pangasinan border.

TOOTS SOBERANO

cheapest source of energy are mountain springs and tributaries of the upland region's seven major river systems, she said.

But she said mega-dams were not necessary if the target is rural electrification and developing rural industries.

Lon-oy's experience proves Lopez's assertion. The villagers have computed and decided by consensus that for the maintenance and upkeep of the micro-hydro power plant, each household must pay only P35 monthly to the community cooperative, which manages the facility.

Further north in the sub-village of Ngibat in Tinglayan, Kalinga, people are paying even cheaper bills for electricity from a 5-kw micro-hydro power plant, which began operating in January 1994.

Jointly initiated by the nongovernment Montañosa Research and Development Center and Sibit, the project does not only light up Ngibat's 32 households.

With a maximum 40 watts allotted per household, the project can also run a community rice mill, thus helping unburden women and children who, by tradition, pound rice every morning and afternoon.

Freed from such tedious labor, the women can now engage in other livelihoods while the children have more time to review their school lessons.

The project has also helped speed up the work of blacksmiths who work at an average of eight hours a day, 10 times a month, or three to four months a year.

The micro-hydro power plant provides the 492-kwh/month total power needs of an electric grinder, drill press and hand drill.

It has also revolutionized the manufacture of *basi* or sugarcane wine. Since

1997, it has powered a sugarcane presser, which is twice faster than a carabao-drawn wooden presser. The sugarcane extract is fermented into wine for sale, which is now the main income earner of 26 livelihoods.

For such benefits, each household in Ngibat pays to the managing cooperative a P22 monthly flat rate.

Old widows and others—who, for one reason or another, are unable to pay in cash or in kind—are exempted or subsidized by other more productive members of the community.

Micro-hydro power has another edge. The needed equipment, such as turbines, can be locally fabricated, thus helping promote and enhance local technology development.

An engineer from the government-run Pangasinan State University, for example, designed the turbine used in the Lon-oy project.

In case of a breakdown, local technicians can easily repair or replace a locally made turbine. Not so with other power-generating equipment, such as solar panels, which are imported.

Earth-friendly

Companies in Western countries are now cashing in on the trend toward developing earth-friendly renewable energy. But to Sibit's Lopez, it is best if the Philippines, or any Third World country for that matter, does not fall prey to becoming a mere market of equipment and gadgets from the industrialized world.

Even if crude, a country's technology must grow, according to her. This can't happen if a country contents itself with

being just a market of technology and equipment from developed countries.

Lopez said 95 percent of equipment and gadgets for all Sibit-aided micro-hydro power projects were manufactured locally. "This only proves that given the opportunity, local technologies can flourish," she said.

Building mega-dams and coal-fired power plants is a different story altogether. As in the San Roque dam and other big-scale energy projects, overseas firms are contracted.

These firms bring in not only their experts and consultants but also their technologies and gadgets, thus helping create markets for their home countries. This arrangement, Sibit said, stifles local technologies.

Encouraging local technology to flourish also helps discourage "brain drain."

Sibit's program of promoting micro-hydro powered electricity, for example, has prevented three Filipino engineers from seeking high-paying jobs under multinational firms within and outside the country.

Mechanical engineer Frank Taguba of Baguio City, civil engineer Paul Tabiolo and electrical engineer Manuel Maputi, both from Mindanao may not have thick wallets, but all of them say they are rich in psychic rewards.

During the inauguration of another micro-hydro power project in Kalinga recently, Taguba hugged a colleague and cried.

But his were tears of joy, he said, joy in foreseeing the endless possibilities the village folk can do with electrical power under their full control.

Carlos 'Primero' strikes again

IN THE LAST 12 years, he has been burning the rubber in the country's most dangerous curves and circuit tracks chasing a dream: To excel in car racing and make Baguio City proud.

And so he did.

"The best drivers should come from Baguio because of the city's natural twisty roads," said Juan Carlos "Primero" Anton, Baguio's most bemedalled sports car racer who holds the rare distinction of having received three commendations from the city council in six years.

In 1995 and 1998, the city government honored him through resolutions for his skill and talent in sports car racing, after winning more than 250 trophies and medals in the sport.

Juggling his journalism studies at the University of the Philippines College Baguio with a risky yet flourishing sports career, he had been going back and forth to Davao, Bacolod, Batangas and Subic to represent Baguio in car racing tournaments.

Last year, he made history when he captured three titles in one year—the Philippine Junior Touring Car Series, the Subic Production Car Series, and the Formula Toyota Rookie of the Year.

Coupled with sheer guts and determination, Anton again bagged the Subic Production Car Series on Sept. 2, defeating more than 10 professional car racers in the country.

At present, Anton leads the Philippine Junior Touring Car Series. "We have already captured the Subic series and are leading in the Philippine touring car series again, with a couple of wins in the Formula Toyota series," he said.

HOMETOWN Snapshot

On Sept. 12, the city council approved a third resolution commending Anton for clinching the title as Philippine national champion in sports car racing, an extraordinary feat for a 30-year-old athlete who started his career in 1989.

Anton described the latest commendation as special because, he said, "it really makes me feel I am making the city proud. I will strive and achieve more in car racing."

"Gobleth Moulie



JUAN CARLOS ANTON

An Ibaloi . . .

(From page 16)

Courtesy of the homegrown dam critic Santahnay (Shalupirip Santahnay Indigenous Peoples Movement), which had linked up with environmental groups in Japan, Pooding in May 1999 was able to visit members of the Japanese Diet and officials of Marubeni and the Japanese Export-Import (Jexim) Bank in Tokyo.

Marubeni and Jexim were part of a consortium financing the San Roque dam project. Right then and there in Tokyo, Pooding appealed to the Japanese officials to rethink and review the loan,

which, he said, would harm rather than benefit the Ibaloi folk.

As chair of Santahnay, a movement that the San Roque dam conflict spawned as early as 1997, Pooding had never given up the Ibaloi battle cry to stop the dam once and for all.

Until he was hospitalized at the Benguet General Hospital for intestinal tumor in August and until he finally succumbed on Sept. 27 at age 74, there were no signs that the battle against the controversial dam was over.

Maurice Malanes

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Anti-US protests growing

(From page A1)

ing firstly to hunt the sitting Islamic government in Afghanistan and then every committed Muslim, in the name of terrorism," Abdul Salam Zaef, the Taliban envoy to Pakistan, told reporters in Islamabad.

Zaef said the attacks on Kabul, Kandahar and Jalalabad had destroyed civilian homes.

He denounced the United States for carrying out the attacks rather than negotiating Bin Laden's fate.

"We ask America to produce solid proof instead of allegations, but America is sending warplanes, bombs and cruise missiles in place of evidence," Zaef said. "This is open terrorism."

Members of the Pan-Malaysia Islamic Party delivered a letter to the UN office in Kuala Lumpur accusing the United States of striking against Afghanistan without evidence and of supporting terrorist acts by Israel against Palestinians.

"The UN must declare to the world that the US and Israel are the two biggest terrorist states in the world, which have caused violence globally," the letter said.

"How can the UN endorse an approach to fight violence with violence? The attacks are carried out without proof or sanctioned by the UN Security Council," it said.

Street protests

In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, hundreds of Islamic activists protesting the US-led military campaign against Afghanistan clashed with police outside the American Embassy in the capital Jakarta.

Police fired shots in the air and tear gas to drive the demonstrators away from the heavily fortified building. No serious injuries were reported.

Anti-US protests were also held in other Indonesian cities, including Makassar, where dozens of demon-

strators burned a US flag, vandalized a McDonald's restaurant billboard and threatened to round up and expel American citizens living there.

US and European officials have cautioned Westerners to stay off the streets of such cities to avoid possible attacks by Muslims who sympathize with Bin Laden or with the Taliban.

In Gaza City, two Palestinians, aged 13 and 21, were killed and 45 injured after Palestinian police opened fire on Islamic University students protesting the military attacks on Afghanistan.

It was the worst fighting among Palestinians in several years.

The Palestinian Authority has tried to distance itself from Bin Laden, and has also tried to persuade the militant Hamas to honor a Sept. 26 truce with Israel.

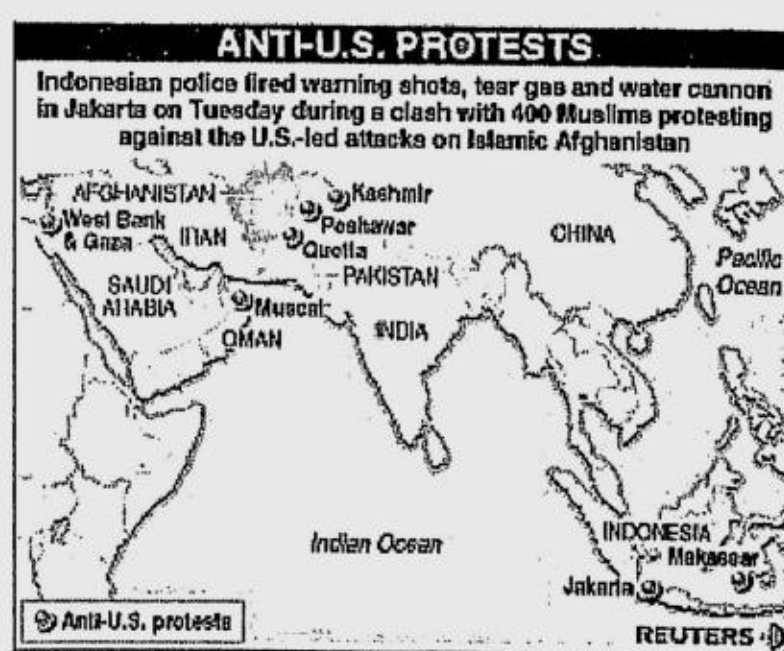
However, Hamas has not observed the truce and is opposed to the US-led military campaign. Some Hamas supporters carried pictures of Bin Laden at Monday's protest.

Bin Laden has issued a call for Muslims to support the Palestinian cause, saying that "neither America nor the people who live in it will dream of security before we live it in Palestine."

In Kuala Lumpur, the Pan-Malaysia Islamic Party's youth wing chief Mahfuz Omar accused Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's government of sending mixed signals about its opposition to the attacks on Afghanistan.

Mahathir said Monday that Malaysia would not support the strikes because they would fail to destroy the terrorists and would harm innocent people.

Before the strikes, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said he had been briefed on the US investigation that officials say links Bin Laden with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, and was satisfied that the United States was not seek-



ing revenge.

Double standard

Across the Middle East on Monday, many accused the United States of applying a double standard by seeking to punish those responsible for terror strikes on US soil while ignoring Israeli actions against Palestinians.

Jordan, a moderate voice in the region, said it supported the global war against terrorism but that the world needed to deal with "the primary reasons that are causing frustration in our region, and this means a just solution to the Palestinian problem."

King Abdullah and visiting Syrian President Bashar Assad stressed that "Arabs and their causes should not be held responsible for the terrorist attacks in the United States."

In Kuwait, three major Islamic groups called on Muslim nations to take steps to halt the US-British attacks. But Kuwait's government reit-

erated its support for the United States.

In Saudi Arabia, the government has condemned Bin Laden, who comes from a well-established Saudi family. But many people on the streets seem to support him.

Asked about the US-led attack on Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the UN Fawzi Shobokshi said: "I hope that they can get the perpetrators of the terrorist acts here (in the United States) and not get innocent people because we are all victims of terrorism, whatever nationality we belong to, wherever we may be residing."

Holocaust of war

Communist North Korea denounced the US-led air attack, saying it risked plunging the world into the "holocaust of war."

Iran radio reported that President Mohammad Khatami demanded an immediate halt to the attack that he said could cause thousands of civilian casualties.

Maranaos: We're willing to go to Afghanistan

(From page A1)

government that we cannot just take things sitting down while our brothers, thousands of innocent Muslims, are killed as a result of the military campaign in Afghanistan. We have to help," Dalidig said.

The protesters also assailed the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo for serving as an "instrument of war" against their brother Muslims in Afghanistan.

They said the United States and its allies should produce hard evidence that Bin Laden had indeed masterminded the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

"Thousands of our people condemning the attack (on Afghanistan) have declared 'jihad' against the US and its allies for putting the lives of innocent civilians in danger," said lawyer Macapantong Abbas Jr., adviser to the Immerge.

Dalidig pointed out that the Muslim Filipinos who said they were willing to be sent to Afghanistan as warriors were not affiliated with any rebel group.

"These people are not rebels in our country. But since the lives of Muslim civilians in Afghanistan are in danger, it will be noble on our part to help the Afghans," he said.

The protesters warned that if the aggression in Afghanistan continued,

Muslims around the world would rise against their governments and fight the United States and its allies.

Domestic problems

But the military chief of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front said the MILF was not too concerned with the attacks on Afghanistan as it was preoccupied with domestic problems including the age-old conflict in Mindanao.

Al-haj Murad made the clarification to the INQUIRER by phone from Kuala Lumpur amid fears that the MILF, along with its counterparts in Asia, would send volunteers to Afghanistan to fight side by side with Taliban forces.

The MILF is one of several Islamic rebel organizations in Asia said to have ties with the Taliban.

Like the beleaguered rulers of Afghanistan, the MILF has also received aid from Bin Laden. It has admitted sending volunteers to Afghanistan during the Afghan-Russian war.

But Murad said no MILF guerrilla would be sent to Afghanistan this time.

"It is possible that some Muslims would volunteer to join the Taliban against the United States and its allies, but as far as the MILF is concerned, we are focusing our attention today on our own problems," Murad said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, the local government and Muslim leaders have forged an agreement to combat pos-

sible terrorist attacks in light of the attacks on Afghanistan.

Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano met with Muslim leaders yesterday to enlist their support.

The city government and the military and police forces have drawn up an integrated plan to beef up security.

Justice, not war

In Davao City, another protest rally was held by the Justice Not War Coalition to condemn the US-led air strikes.

Ariel Casilao, chair of Anakbayan-Davao City, said the war would hurt Afghan civilians rather than destroy the Taliban.

Casilao also said the Philippines had no business giving full support to the US-led decision to launch a military offensive in Afghanistan.

He said the Macapagal administration should instead focus on its own security problems, particularly the Abu Sayyaf.

"If it's true that the Abu Sayyaf has ties with (Bin Laden's) al-Qaida network, then we can expect some operations (from the Abu Sayyaf)," he said.

Dr. Robinson Montalbo, co-convenor of the Justice Not War Coalition, said the US government and its allies had not presented undeniable proof that Bin Laden was behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

"If they can prove that, then they should bring whoever is responsible to

the international courts," he said.

Moral view

In San Pablo City, Fr. Philip Atienza, director of the Diocesan Social Action Center, said that from the moral point of view, the United States and its allies were not justified in launching attacks on Afghanistan simply because they could not locate Bin Laden, their real target.

"The end does not justify the means," Atienza said.

Msgr. Jerry Bitoon, rector of the College Seminary, said he favored the attacks so long as the allied forces focused on Bin Laden and the military arsenals supposedly used for international terrorism by him and the Taliban.

Bitoon said there was a need to cripple the military capability of Bin Laden and his supporters in order to prevent them from unleashing another terrorist aggression. But he said the US government should caution its forces against violating the basic rights of innocent people.

"The US government and the American people are two different entities. There are instances where the government may commit abuses against civilians, which is totally unacceptable to the American public," he said. With reports from Joel B. Escovilla, Allan A. Nawal and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

A foreign ministry spokesperson, by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), reaffirmed North Korea's condemnation of terrorism in its first comment on the air strikes on Afghanistan this week.

But he added: "The use of armed forces or a war to kill innocent people and aggravate regional situation and disturb regional stability contrary to the purpose cannot be justified under any circumstances."

"We hold that the action of the United States should not be a source of a vicious circle of terrorism and retaliation that may plunge the world into the holocaust of war."

The spokesperson said the fight against terrorism should be directed toward promoting global peace and stability.

North Korea remains on a US list of states accused of sponsoring terrorism, but it pointedly condemned the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States as "very regretful and tragic."

Iran is watching with extreme unease the unfolding showdown across its eastern border between its sworn enemy, the United States, and another major foe, the Taliban.

"Thousands of people should not

be killed under the pretext of fighting terrorism, and innocent and oppressed people should not be sacrificed to aggression," Iran radio quoted Khatami as saying.

The reformist president, re-elected in June in a landslide victory, used milder language than Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei did when he blasted the attacks on Monday.

"We condemn the attack on the country and the people of Afghanistan," state television showed Khamenei telling clerics.

They replied with chants of "Death to America, death to Israel!"

Khatami, a mid-ranking cleric with a philosophical bent, said the misfortunes of Afghanistan were the result of cruel governments there and the prevalence of the drug trade.

"We have to mobilize the world's will to save these oppressed people," he said.

Tehran has sent thousands of extra troops to seal its rugged 900-kilometer border with Afghanistan against a possible influx of refugees, and has set up camps along the border to aid fleeing Afghans without letting them onto Iranian soil. Reports from Inquirer wires



JIHAD, Indonesian protesters in front of the US Embassy in Jakarta shout as they hold up a portrait of the prime suspect in the US suicide attacks.

US told: Make it quick, make it clean

CAIRO, Egypt—The United States has one hope to avoid touching off mass public anger in the Middle East over its attack on Afghanistan: Make it quick and make it clean, before the images of Afghans slain by US strikes start coming.

"There's no clean war, despite the talk of precision bombing and what have you," said Walid Kaziha, a political science professor at the American University in Cairo.

Chances for angry public protests in Arab countries will build quickly "if we begin to see on TV screens the hosts of Afghans killed, and bodies of kids and old people," Kaziha said.

By Monday afternoon Arab countries had seen only smaller, peaceful versions of the tear gas-clouded protests that sprang up in Pakistan after the US and British strikes on Afghanistan's Taliban regime and the network of Osama bin Laden.

The air strikes stirred resentment across the Middle East, triggering the repeated accusation from Muslims that the United States ignores

suffering by Palestinians and Iraqis, but hits blindly when it is the one struck.

Unlike Pakistan, Arab countries have by and large carefully avoided even tacit public endorsement of the US-led military action, avoiding drawing any popular anger over the strikes upon themselves, and removing one stimulus for protests.

Across the Arab world, "we are waiting and seeing how much America is prepared to fight a successful war," said Gehad Auda, a political science professor at Cairo's Helwan University.

"The quicker the better, the cleaner the better. But if it's nasty—many Americans dead, many airplanes shot down, we start getting messy stuff—that becomes a problem for everyone," Auda said.

He added: "Generally, people are not in favor. The United States hasn't done its work preparing the stage in terms of public opinion... not as it was in 1990-1991 (in the Gulf War)."

"People are waiting to jump on (US President George W. Bush if he's not successful)." AP

Rice supply sufficient; price monitors in place

(From page A1)

As of the fourth week of September, the country's rice inventory stood at 1.68 million metric tons. At the rate the country consumes rice every day—some 24,400 metric tons on the average—the stock is good for at least 69 days.

"We have more than enough rice supplies at the moment and there should be no reason for any unfavorable behavior in rice prices and supply at this time," Abad said.

The NFA's contingency plan includes the strategic positioning of rice stocks for speedier reaction to price and supply fluctuations, greater market visibility, judicious stock management, strict implementation of government rules, food conservation at the consumer level and the swift prosecution of violators.

The NFA has also proposed to Malacañang the formation of a multi-sectoral consultative council to help implement the contingency measures, should the need arise.

"We will forward a memorandum to the President regarding this proposal, because we see it appropriate that all sectors are involved in the aspect of food security," Abad said.

On the other hand, the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to subsidize agriculture, especially palay prices, instead of spending government money to support the US-led war on terrorism.

"Unfair agricultural trade practices must be immediately stopped and price subsidies on farmers' produce should be instituted," KMP president Rafael Mariano said.

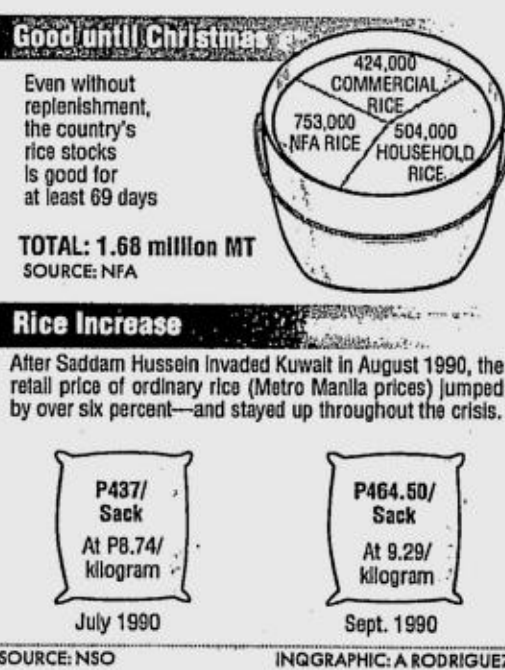
Gulf war

One possible immediate impact of the "war on terrorism" that the US-led international coalition is waging is rampant price speculation.

Rice prices during the Gulf War, for example, jumped by over P27 per sack. In July 1990, a month before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, the retail price of ordinary rice in Metro Manila stood at P8.74 per kilo. (There are 50 kilos per sack.) By September, the price had jumped to P9.29.

The price stayed at that level even when the crisis ended in January 1991, after US forces routed the Iraqi Republican Guards.

Abad drew no distinction between terrorists and price speculators.



ing country like the Philippines, which this year alone imported some 650,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam and Thailand.

In 1990, at the time of the Persian Gulf crisis, the Philippines also imported about the same amount from Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia and the Netherlands.

If the conflict in Central Asia and the Middle East worsens, the Philippines and other member-countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations can tap the 72,000 metric tons of rice reserves they have in store.

"We have been a member of the Asean Food Security Council and we have been pooling emergency rice reserves for food security among the member-countries," Abad said. These contingency rice stocks have been replenished yearly since the Gulf War, he added.

However, NFA Deputy Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr. said that tapping the Asean rice stocks was on a first-come, first-served basis.

At the moment, the country's rice inventory stands at 1.68 million metric tons—consisting of 753,000 metric tons of NFA rice, 424,000 metric tons of commercial rice, and 504,000 metric tons of household rice.

Tan said that better-than-expected palay harvests by year's end because of the mild effects of the El Niño weather phenomenon are expected to boost total rice output, estimated at 12.7 million metric tons.

"In other words, there is no reason for us to worry in so far as rice supplies are concerned," Abad said. "But we should be prepared for any eventuality since the current global situation is very fluid and unpredictable."

More investments

Farmers' groups and grains businessmen have pledged to cooperate with the government to help ensure food security.

They said the best way to assure stability of food supplies and prices was to strengthen the capability of the local farmers to attain self-sufficiency in production to reduce dependence on imports.

The Philippine Confederation of Grains Associations, led by Joji Co, said more investments should be made in modern post-harvest facilities to improve the milling and processing capacity of local millers, and reduce post-harvest losses.

Co said that these losses were equivalent to the volume of the country's rice imports.

'New war' looks very conventional

(From page A1)

Sunday, the war became reminiscent of a not too distant battlefield past, military historians said.

"It followed the classical model," said Peter Singer of the Washington-based Brookings Institution, recalling the start of the 1991 campaign against Iraqi troops in Kuwait and the 1999 drive against Belgrade-backed forces in Kosovo.

Control of airspace

US defense officials said as the first wave of strikes in Afghanistan got underway that their first priority was to win control of the country's skies, an imperative of the doctrine of "strategic control" of airspace applied in all US military operations.

And the next steps of the operations have already been revealed by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and top Pentagon officials: more bomb and cruise missile strikes, even as officials weigh the success of Sunday and Monday's attacks.

"The strikes will then become more tactical. They will start hitting tanks and artillery on the ground," Singer said.

Rumsfeld confirmed Monday that some "moving" targets could soon come into the sights of the strike forces operating over Afghanistan.

But, the analysts warned, the conflict will feature some marked differences from other campaigns: US forces will not launch a full frontal strike on Afghanistan as they did in Kuwait. Nor

will a stabilization force be sent in, as in Kosovo.

And, the end of the conflict in Afghanistan, should not mark the end of US involvement in the war-ravaged country, racked by civil war since the pullout of the Soviet Union in 1989, leaving a power vacuum.

"The administration should take a role in rebuilding a government of some kind" in Afghanistan, Keane said.

Mixed record

But the United States, which has had a mixed record in leaving behind stable and desirable governments after past military or covert interventions, is proceeding cautiously and in approaching post-Taliban Afghanistan.

"The behind the scene task of the administration is to build and keep together an anti-Taliban coalition," Singer said. "It is to bring the (Afghan opposition) Northern Alliance together with the Pashtun tribes" to help form a new government.

He said the US-led action would allow the Northern Alliance, which is encamped on frontlines north of Kabul, "to help in putting pressure on the Taliban" rulers in the Afghan capital.

But that operation is both difficult and highly sensitive. The current tactical alliance between the United States and the Afghan opposition does not have deep roots, Singer said.

"The thing that I worry about most is that they don't have the same agenda and they don't have the same visions of their long-term interests," he said. AFP

Strikes continue; Americans edgy

(From page A1)

pand in time. "Air strikes will be supported by other actions," he said.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the US-led campaign against international terrorism "will likely be sustained for a period of years."

Monday, Tuesday strikes

In the first daylight raids since the start of US-led attacks, jets bombed the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, officials said. Taliban troops replied with heavy anti-aircraft fire.

They said the targets were the same as Sunday, when US and British forces hit airfields, air defense units, communications centers and terrorist camps.

As the raids began, lights went out in Kabul, and Taliban radio ordered people to close blinds and stay indoors.

Witnesses reported bombs hitting targets on the outskirts of Kabul and near the airport as Taliban anti-aircraft batteries opened up on fighter jets.

Various media reports said the strikes also targeted television towers just outside Kabul, as well as Kandahar and the eastern city of Jalalabad.

Electricity was cut in Kabul soon after the strikes began at around 8:30 p.m. (1600 GMT).

Pentagon officials said five long-range bombers—a pair of B-2 stealth bombers and three B-1B joined 10 sea-launched warplanes in Monday's strikes against air defense and military targets in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul, the Taliban's home base, Kandahar and in the north where the opposition Northern Alliance is fighting the Taliban.

On Monday, the Northern Alliance, which controls 10 percent of northern Afghanistan, said it was preparing a

major offensive possibly to begin yesterday on key cities including Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif.

The Northern Alliance, boosted by the strikes, had unleashed an onslaught on Taliban positions north of Kabul, predicting the Afghan capital would fall in days.

Although smaller than Sunday's night's first bombardment, the Monday attack included the launch of 15 cruise missiles from the USS John Paul Jones and USS McPaul and a submarine.

Pentagon officials said the second night of aerial bombardment, like the first, was followed by the airdrop of 37,000 packets of vitamin-enriched food for Afghan civilians.

Terrorizing terrorists

US officials reiterated that Monday's strikes targeted the ruling Taliban and the terrorist al-Qaida network run by Osama bin Laden, the chief suspect in the suicide attacks in the US.

Bush said Sunday's military action, which reportedly were aimed at 30 targets, went "as planned."

"All the aircraft returned safely, the humanitarian food and medicine drops were successful... so we feel that this far it has been a very successful effort," said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Rumsfeld and Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the Pentagon Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the strikes had severely damaged Taliban air defenses, but they had not been completely destroyed and there was no indication yet that military communications had been disrupted on the ground.

Myers said that Taliban early warning radar, ground forces, command and control facilities, airfields and aircraft, as well as al-Qaida's infrastructure, had been hit.

The military was making "extraor-

dinary efforts" to limit collateral damage, said an admiral who did not want to be named. "Our objective is to terrorize the terrorists," he said.

Casualties confirmed

But four Afghan employees of the UN-affiliated, mine-clearing agency were killed in the US assault on Monday.

This is the first independent confirmation of civilian deaths since the air strikes began Sunday.

The victims' office was located in a village 3 kilometers east of Kabul. The building, which was destroyed, was not far from a Taliban communications tower.

The United Nations appealed yesterday for the protection of civilians in Afghanistan saying that "people need to distinguish between combatants and those innocent civilians who do not bear arms."

The Iranian news agency Irna also reported that Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, the head of the Taliban air force, was killed in Monday's military strikes, but there was no immediate official confirmation of the report. And Taliban officials vehemently denied the report.

Highest alert level

In the United States where support for the bombing is nearly unanimous according to a recent poll, concern is growing that terrorists would strike back.

A few hours after the joint US-British Sunday attack began, Bin Laden and his Taliban protectors vowed revenge and a holy war. But they looked increasingly isolated as most Arab and Muslim states remained circumspect—only longtime foes Iraq and Iran openly denounced the US-led military action.

US officials have themselves warned on several occasions that further acts of terrorism were likely as the US-led mili-

tary campaign gathers steam.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation Tuesday continued to probe a rare death from anthrax and the discovery Monday of a second case of the disease in Florida. The FBI was looking into the possibility of a biological attack. (Story in The World, Page A11.)

Not since World War II has the country has been on its highest alert.

Thousands of additional armed police and National Guard troops patrolled airports and train stations. The Coast Guard was on its highest alert level.

Nuclear power plants, airports and US, British and Israeli diplomatic missions are among the sites around the world where security has been tightened amid concerns of reprisals.

Plane scare

Military jets scrambled on Monday to escort a commercial airliner from Los Angeles with 162 people on board bound for Chicago after passengers helped the crew subdue a mentally ill man. He had forced his way into the cockpit, setting off a scare that another Sept. 11-style hijacking might be in the offing.

Sonic booms caused by the two military jets above Chicago's northern suburbs rattled nerves though the incident aboard American Airlines was not linked in any way to the hijacked plane attacks on New York and Washington.

Since then, Americans have had a new sense of vulnerability.

But in New York City last Monday, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani kicked off the annual Columbus Day parade saying the event was a vital symbol that showed the city could move forward despite the attack that reduced the World Trade Center's twin towers, themselves symbols of American prosperity, to rubble.

Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters

CIA-supplied Stingers threaten US planes

WASHINGTON—CIA-supplied Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, which helped drive Soviet forces from Afghanistan in the 1980s, have come back to haunt US military aircraft dropping bombs and food packs on the central Asian country, a top US military officer said on Monday.

Air Force Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Taliban forces had met the initial wave of US and British attacks with anti-aircraft fire as well as "man-portable surface-to-air missiles."

"We just assume that some of those were the Stinger missiles, because we know they have those man-portable surface-to-air missiles," Myers told a Pentagon briefing.

The Taliban have been reported to have up to 100 of the shoulder-fired, heat-seeking Stingers, a Raytheon Co. product with the deadliest record against low-flying aircraft of any modern weapon.

The first generation of the Stinger was delivered by the CIA to Afghan rebels in mid-1986. The missiles' mystique has been diminished by the role they played in neutralizing Soviet air power in Afghanistan.

Myers said aircraft used in the first strikes of a projected long war on those held responsible for the Sept. 11 blitz on the United States had flown too high to be hit by Stingers.

The Stinger's range is more than three kilometers, according to a Defense Department fact sheet.

"Obviously, the aircraft were at heights above both the anti-aircraft

fire and the man-portable surface-to-air missiles (so) that they weren't affected by it," Myers told reporters.

Western fighters and bombers are relatively safe from the Stinger not only because they fly high but because they can maneuver quickly and deploy a vast range of defenses and countermeasures.

Potentially more vulnerable are heavy transport aircraft such as the C-17 Globemasters used to drop 37,500 food packs to starving Afghans barely nine hours after the US and British blitz.

"The ultimate irony would be the loss of a US-made Stinger of one of our C-17s on a humanitarian flight," said Dan Goure, a Cold War-era Pentagon strategist now at the Lexington Institute, a defense policy research group in Arlington, Virginia.

The two C-17s used in the initial food drops flew at a higher altitude than on any previous such operations, the mission commander, Air Force Col. Robert Allardice told a briefing at Germany's Ramstein Air Base on Monday. He declined to say how high they flew.

In the 1980s, the administration of President Ronald Reagan delivered several hundred Stingers to Afghan resistance groups, including people who ended up siding with Taliban forces now sheltering Osama bin Laden.

The CIA, despite strenuous efforts, was never able to recover more than a few of the missiles after the war ended, even with big cash rewards. Reuters

Master speaker Bin Laden hits the right chord

CAIRO—When Osama bin Laden addressed the world from his Afghan hideout on satellite TV, he appeared to some a master of manipulation, and to others like a prophet who had seen the light.

Shortly after US-led strikes on Afghanistan targets began on Sunday, a videotaped statement beamed across the globe showed the Saudi-born rebel condemning Washington and its Middle East policies, praising those who attacked America and calling on Muslims to rise up and defend their faith.

Some analysts said Bin Laden's carefully orchestrated performance, touching on all the key themes which find resonance among those who feel oppressed by the United States, proved what a sinister manipulator he is.

But to many in the Islamic world, he just spoke from the heart, saying what they feel but are afraid to express. "If there had been a referendum yesterday in the Arab world (on Bin Laden's performance), he would have got 99 percent," said Walid Kazziha, a political science professor at the American University in Cairo (AUC).

"It gave me goosebumps," said an Arab photographer in Kuwait who saw the footage of the bearded Bin Laden dressed in fatigues with an assault rifle by his side. "I have never in my life heard somebody pledge such conviction and determination."

Striking the chord

In his first public comments since the September 11 attacks in the United States, the world's most wanted man taunted "infidel" US President George W. Bush and said the United States would not live in peace until Palestinians could do the same.

He called on Muslims to defend their religion and expressed support for the airliner attacks on New York and Washington that killed about 6,000 people.

The speech was peppered with religious references and buzzwords, homing in on the image of infidel killers who "toyed with the blood, honor and sanctities of Muslims."

"There are lots of people who will have felt (been moved by) some of those words, like 'infidel,' and the dichotomous view of the world in terms of good and evil. It is the mirror image, turned on its head, of US statements (about a fight of good versus evil)," said Philip Robins, Middle East specialist at Oxford University.

"A lot of people will find that these words struck a chord, that there was resonance," he said.

Mustafa Alani, a Middle East consultant at the Royal Institute for Defence Studies in London, said the statement was designed to touch both Bin Laden's supporters and ordinary Arabs in the street.

"He is a first-class speaker. He is a deep believer. He let millions of dollars to live in a cave. That tells you about the depth of his belief in what he is doing. This certainly comes across in his statement. People believe him more than any Arab leader," Alani said.

Saying it loud

Analysts said Bin Laden's speech, taped in a rugged mountain setting, was clearly designed to show the contrast between him and the US and Arab leaders he despises.

"It seemed to be a very short statement. It was very different from the kind of speeches you usually get from Arab leaders that tend to go on and on, full of high-flown rhetoric and rambling. Maybe it was intelligent and sophisticated for being less," Robins said.

Alani said Bin Laden sought to represent exactly the opposite of the "image of somebody in the White House wearing an Italian suit, telling people what is right and what is wrong."

The absolute contrast to that is someone with a beard, who lives in a cave, who is a very rich man who leaves everything behind for his cause."

Kazziha said many Arabs agreed with Bin Laden's belief the United States had overstayed its welcome in Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest sites, trampled on Muslim sensitivities and humiliated Arabs for decades while coddling Israel.

"He came through as very honest, expressing the inner feeling of the people... He not only said what was in the people's hearts, but he probably spoke in the tongue of many of those in power too. I think his appeal was enormous," the AUC's Kazziha said.

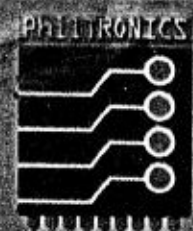
Robins noted Bin Laden's brief and punchy speech also revealed he was media savvy.

"TV stations all over the world like statements which are pithy and to the point. This was a statement to be broadcast again and again, which wouldn't have been the case with a long speech," he said.

Alani said it was important that Bin Laden had spoken last on the videotape, after two disciples in his al-Qaida network.

"It's important that he was the last one, because people remember the last one who spoke, they will remember Osama bin Laden." Reuters

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8th Philippine International Electronics Manufacturing Technology Exhibition & Conference



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Search2001

Philippine Subcontracting Fair for Industrial Goods and Services

10-12 October 2001

Exhibition hours: 10:30am-6:00pm



World Trade Center Metro Manila, Philippines

Schedule of Free Seminars at PhilTRONICS 2001

DATE/TIME	TOPICS	SPEAKER
10 October		
11:00-12:00 noon	Solid Waste Mgmt. in the Electronics Industry by: Inca Plastics	Mr. Edgardo Cayton
2:00-3:00 p.m.	EK Pumps Features Seminar by: Iwaki Chemical Pumps	Mr. Noriaki Nishi
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Vacuum Technology with Vacuum Ejectors and Suction Cups by: Pisco Pneumatic Equipment	Engr. Mel Vicencio
	Idec (Izum) Systems & Control Components by: Idec Izumi	Mr. Ronnie Lee
11 October		
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Automatic Optical Inspection X-Ray Inspection by: Maxtronix Inc.	Ms. Annie Fong
11:30-12:30 p.m.	Hilbox MDA ICT Machine by: Von Roll Isola Asia Ltd. (Tech Plus Inds)	Mr. Wong Peng Sang
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Leloa Digital Camera with Imaging System by: Maedan Enterprise	Mr. Dirk Foo
4:00-5:00 p.m.	Vision System for On-line Inspection of ICs/PCBs by: Benchmark Systems Pte. Ltd.	Mr. Kris Raghavan
12 October		
11:00-12:00 noon	Ultrasonic Cleaning/Welding by: Branson Ultrasonics	Mr. Herbert Funtanar
2:00-3:00 p.m.	Clavel Automatic "Flow Control Valves" / ABS Pumps by: Tytrade International	Mr. Kris Raghavan
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Factory Automation Solution by: Yokogawa Phils., Inc.	Mr. Senthil Nathan

Schedule of Free Seminars at Enviro-Tech Philippines 2001

DATE	TIME	TOPICS
October 10	1:30-4:30 p.m.	Technology Presentation Part I
October 11	8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Technical Seminar co-organized by WEAP
	1:30-4:30 p.m.	Technology Presentation Part 2

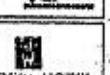
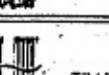
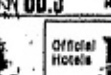
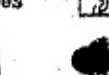
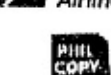
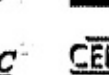
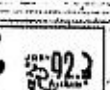
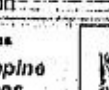
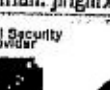
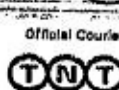
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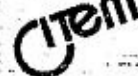
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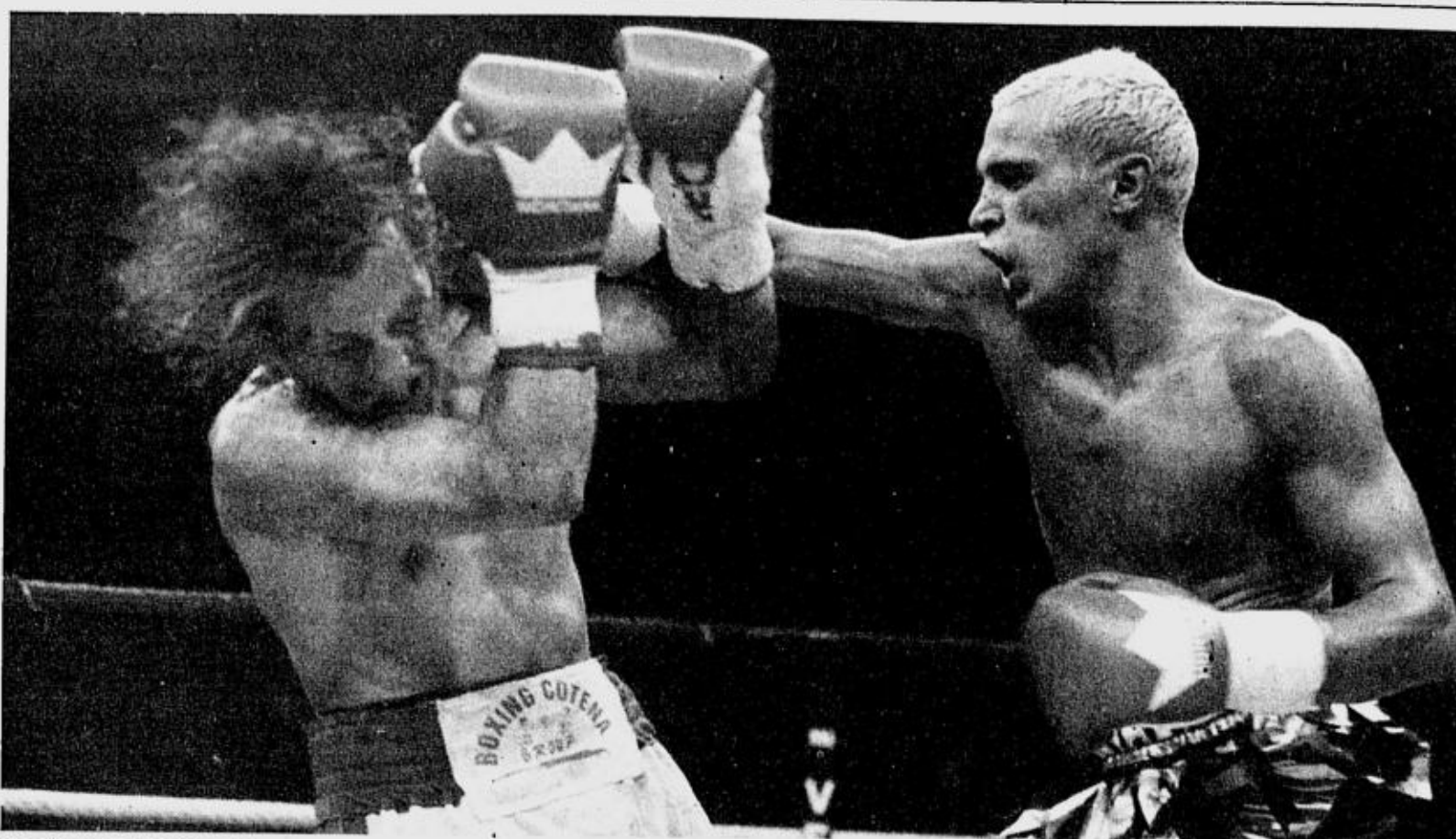
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LEADERSHIP ROWS

3 sports bodies want POC help



BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

AFTER resolving the troubled Basketball Association of the Philippines, the Philippine Olympic Committee is now faced with three more national sports associations with equally raging leadership disputes.

Associations in weightlifting, karate and cycling are needing the help of the POC to resolve their internal problems stemming from multi-factions within their respective groups.

POC president Celso Dayrit said he has yet to receive formal request for arbitration from the NSAs but admitted that he is aware of the squabbling inside the associations.

The task of solving the NSAs' problems is very difficult, if not downright confusing.

Like in the case of the Philippine Weightlifting Association, Dayrit said he recognized the election of Rodones Sicut who was elected president last year.

But athletes and coaches, led by national coach Jaime Sebastian, claimed that Dayrit sides with George Aliño, the former president who is now PWA chair.

"They (Sicut and Aliño) don't see eye to eye," said Sebastian, who will ask the POC to withdraw recognition from both Sicut and Aliño and call for an election.

Clark, Tom's sign memo

THE CLARK Development Corp. and Tom's Sports International Corp. recently signed a memorandum of agreement reserving 75 hectares of land for exclusive use of the Clark International Circuit Philippines motoring race tracks.

Signed by CDC president, Dr. Emmanuel Angeles and Tom's Sports president Jomari Yllana, the MOU will convert the land into a 4.2-km circuit and tracks for motocross, go kart, drag strip, 4X4 and rallycross inside the former US base.

Others present during the signing were Tom's VP Ed Gomez, CDC executive VP Victor Luciano, CDC director Jesus Nicado, lawyer Jose Cornelio Lukban, motocyclist Nonoy Cabrera and Yoyong Buncio.

Cheng shelves Uratex tourney

ROBERTO Go Cheng said yesterday he has shelved the 14th Uratex National Caddies Championship due mainly to the "latest sad and unfortunate incident" involving his family.

"After the latest unfortunate incident that happened to my family last week, I have no choice but to shelve this year's championship," he said.

He was referring to the slaying of his sister-in-law Connie Wong by kidnappers. Ms Wong was the sister of Cheng's wife Naty. In June, his daughter Pinky was also kidnapped. She was released unharmed.

"What happened to Pinky has affected us all. And we are still grieving over Connie's death. It will not look good and we will not feel right to be staging the championship. I hope our caddies will understand my decision."

"I know most of the golf clubs around the country are in the process of selecting their players. And I know that these caddies are busy preparing for it. Rest assured we will hold their tournament next year."

Cheng made the decision after meeting with the organizing committee composed of chair Col. Abe Villanueva, co-chair Mending Santos and members Taby Tabaniang, Jake Ayson and Roger Flores.

Cheng, president of the sponsoring Polyfoam-RGC Int'l Corp. Uratex Philippines Inc., and Pablo "Boy" Roman Jr., president of the Capitol Hills Golf and Country, are the tournament's executive committee co-chairmen.

BOXING ACTION

Olympic champion Brahim Asloum of France (right) connects with a right to the head of Italian Mercurio Ciarantaro in their professional light flyweight fight in Paris yesterday. Asloum won on points. Also in Paris, top contender Raul Balbi of Argentina beat champion Julien Lorcy of France by a majority decision to wrest the WBA lightweight crown.

Hoya defends WBC title vs Russian

LOS ANGELES—Oscar De La Hoya will return to the arena where he won his first title when he defends his WBC super welterweight championship against Roman Karmazin on Dec. 8.

"I am excited about returning to my roots to fight the WBC No. 1 challenger Karmazin," De La Hoya said in a statement issued Monday by Univision Sports, which will promote the 12-round bout at the Olympic Auditorium.

De La Hoya, a 1992 Olympic gold medalist and California native, won his first title—the WBO 135-pound (60.75-kilogram) championship—by stopping Jimmi Bredahl of Denmark in 10 rounds

in March 1994.

De La Hoya (34-2, 27 knockouts) is one of three fighters in boxing history to win world championships in five divisions—junior lightweight, lightweight, junior welterweight, welterweight and super welterweight. The others to accomplish the feat are Sugar Ray Leonard and Thomas Hearns.

Karmazin (28-0-1), of Kuznietz, Russia, has won his last 24 fights. De La Hoya won the WBC super middleweight championship with a unanimous 12-round decision over Javier Castillejo of Spain in Las Vegas on June 23.

In his first bout of the year, De La

Hoya stopped Arturo Gatti in the fifth round in Las Vegas on March 24. That was his first fight since he lost the WBC welterweight title to Shane Mosley at Staples Center on June 17, 2000. AP

Ayala gets 90 days

SAN ANTONIO—Boxer Tony Ayala Jr. was sentenced to 90 days in jail on Monday after pleading guilty to burglarizing a San Antonio home and trying to commit aggravated assault.

Ayala, 38, also was sentenced to 10 years probation, according to defense lawyer Jimmy Parks. Parks said Ayala would

be granted daily work release during his jail term so he can continue training to resume his boxing career.

Prosecutors and the defense agreed to the sentence terms as part of a plea deal last month. The plea came on the third day of Ayala's trial on charges of burglary with intent to commit sexual assault and two counts of assault. AP

IBF prexy retires

EAST ORANGE, New Jersey—Hiawatha Knight, who took over as president of the International Boxing Federation after its founder was indicted on bribery charges, has retired.

Imus net bets bag team plum

IMUS Pilot of Cavite nipped San Beda to capture the gold medal in the elementary boys' team tennis event in the recent 2001 Milo Little Olympics at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Imus Pilot registered a double following the girls' team victory in the distaff side with a 3-0 shut-out over Flos Carmeli Institute of QC.

In table tennis, University of the East also brought home an early gold after a masterful triumph over arch-rival Letran in the high school boys' division.

PSC Commissioner William Ramirez graced the opening ceremonies last Saturday at the RMSC track oval together with Ronald Barreiro of Publicis AMA, Milo brand manager Juan Miguel Alvarez and sports executive Jacky Jaime.

Tight security

FILDERSTADT, Germany — Tennis organizers are stepping up security at tournaments in the wake of US air strikes in Afghanistan, the women's tour said Monday.

Most American players skipped tournaments abroad after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. Many have now arrived in Europe for tournaments starting just as the retaliatory strikes against Afghanistan have gotten underway.

Iriga hosting 3 boxing meets

WOMEN boxing returns to the scene anew when the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines holds the 2001 National Juniors, Seniors and Women's Open Championships in Iriga City.

The three-in-one tourney set Oct. 15 to 21, will have competitions in eight weight categories for the women's division, which has a big chance of being included in the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics. The juniors and seniors will have 12 weight classes each.

"We are including the women's division in this year's National Open Women Boxing is now being promoted worldwide and in the event this is in-

cluded in the Olympics, the country will have another avenue in its quest for that elusive Olympic gold medal," Manny Lopez, Abap president, said.

"And this early, we see that Iriga City with its facilities and strong support to amateur sports, particularly boxing, will be very successful in staging this championships," he added.

According to Lopez, eligible to participate in the women's division are boxers not over 25 years by Oct. 15 this year. The seniors must not be over 33 by the same date while the juniors must not be over 17. Members of the national training pool are allowed to participate

in any team of their choices.

Tournament format allows a region to field in any number of teams which will be limited to only one boxer per weight division. The knockout system of elimination will be used.

Some 40 teams, lead by defending seniors champion Philippine Army, are expected to participate in the event which was last held in Cotabato in 1999.

The weeklong tournament will award trophies and medals to the winners in the team and individual competitions. Trophies will also be awarded to the best boxers in each division as well as the tournament's best referee.

Mitra racefest unfolds tonight

THE PHILIPPINE Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders' Organization holds the 2nd Futurity Championship Racing Festival starting tonight at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Tonight's 9-race program kicks off Philobo's five-day racing festival which culminates this Sunday with the staging of the four-division Mitra Cup Championships.

"Inspired by the huge success of last year's staging, this year's festival has now been expanded into a five-day horse racing extravaganza," said Philobo President Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr.

Highlight of the week-long extravaganza is the Oct. 14 Philobo Mitra Cup Championship Day which will be head-

lined by four P500,000 stakes races, including the twin-bill Mitra Cup Juvenile Colts and Juvenile Fillies Championship for two-year-olds and the double-header Mitra Cup Three-Year-Old Colts and Three-Year-Old Fillies Championship.

Among the major backers of the big event are the Philippine Racing Commission, Manila Bank, Emperador Brandy, Pagcor and the PCSO, among others.

All four Mitra Cup Championships will be disputed over 1,500-meters and carries guaranteed winner's purse of P300,000. The three other placers in each division are set to receive P125,000, P50,000 and P25,000, from second to fourth, respectively.

Bailey passes \$20-M mark

LEXINGTON, Kentucky—Jerry Bailey became the first jockey to surpass \$20 million in purse winnings in a year, adding another accomplishment to a Hall of Fame career.

Bailey, 44, reached the milestone in guiding Hap to victory in the \$558,500 Shadwell Keeneland Turf Mile at Keeneland on Sunday. Bailey took the 8-5 favorite five wide on the home turn en route to a 1-1/2-length win. AP

NCA derby blasts off

ANOTHER tight and exciting battle awaits cockfighting fans in the NCA 7-Stag Derby tonight at the Araneta Coliseum.

Five entries, led by San Leonardo-Cavite Coliseum of Lito Orillaza and TL Anito of the Tonette Luzarriga-Mauro Prieto combine, are leading the pack with three straight wins entering tonight's four-stag finals. Two others are within striking distance with 2-1/2 points while seven other entries remain in the running with two points.

At the conclusion of Monday night's three-stag elims, also scoring three points are Geran Arnis Master of Gerry Fevidal, San Rafael Anniversary of Mayor Jessie Viceo and Sir Vicent International 9-Cock. With 2-1/2 points are BPZ Alcatraz of Boy Primallion and RTTM Mel-BMG of the Ricaforte Santos tandem.

Cash prizes await the champion and runners-up of this five-leg stag series billed as Stagwars 2001. This star-studded event is being held under the aegis of the prestigious National Cockers Association, an organization which is not only widely admired for hosting quality derbies at the Big Dome but also for providing scholarship grants to poor and deserving students. Two other stag derbies on Oct. 15-17 and Oct. 22-24 complete the calendar.

Mika Immonen is coming to town

CONFIDENT and thoroughly cool and calculated, Mika Immonen of Finland, the reigning World Pool champion, is coming in December to meet mainstays of Puyat Sports headed by his idol, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, and ageless Efren "Bata" Reyes.

The 29-year-old Finnish champ recently informed sportsman-businessman Aristeo "Putch" Puyat of his willingness to face the country's toughest dudes in their hometown, saying he was "keen on winning in the Philippines (and in Taiwan where he is due to show his wares in the first week of December) to protect Europe's dominance in pocket billiards."

It would be a good opportunity to see the world champ play here in December because it would show to the world that the Philippines is, after all, a safe and peaceful place to visit. Besides, the star-studded series would be a fitting gift to the Filipino people during the Christmas season.

Born Dec. 17, 1972 in England, Mika Immonen was raised in Finland

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



and now resides in New York. He is single, possesses a pleasant personality and a face which is handsome. Mika is liked and respected by many of his opponents because of his charm and determined good sense.

A pool player of 11 years, nothing much has been written about him. But last July, Mika Immonen, known as "The Iceman" in the international billiards scene, made sports history when he won the World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff, beating 1996 winner and highly favored Ralf "The Kaiser" Souquet of Germany, 17-10, in a nail-biting final.

"I'm speechless," said a teary-eyed Immonen who was embraced by his girlfriend Helen after sealing the champi-

onship. "I don't know what to say. I had to stop myself from fainting," added the Finn whose victory assured that the world pool championship is back in Europe following the Asian domination of the sport the past two years.

At the pool table, Mika Immonen is not flashy. When playing, he is full of concentration, a mean machine with a heart of steel, yet away from it, Mika has the common touch; a man who keeps in shape by running and rollerblading, a man who loves watching TV (his favorites are "Friends" and "The Simpsons") and going to the movies (his favorite stars are Paul Newman and Jennifer Lopez). He also loves to drink beer and eat Italian food, although he manages to stay fit and trim.

Aside from winning this year's World Pool Championship, Immonen also placed third in the 1998 US Open and won the European Tour in 1992; the Scandinavian Open in 1994-95; the Peace Cup championship in Taiwan in 1996 and the European Straight-Pool tournament in 1998.



TIGER'S BOOK

Another book about Tiger Woods is set to be released in the United States on Tuesday. Woods makes his debut as an author with "How I Play Golf," an instructional, 306-page book that includes tips he has given Golf Digest magazine the past several years with fresh reviews, anecdotes and seven secrets to his success. It costs \$34.95.

Maddux, Mariners renew playoff quests

NEW YORK—Greg Maddux is ready to renew the quest and the Seattle Mariners are eager to start, too. Mark McGwire might even join this party.

A week later than scheduled, baseball begins its postseason on Tuesday with a focus on strong pitching, a pair of 100-win teams and a few stars hoping to reverse past fortunes.

Oh, and this October constant—the New York Yankees trying to defend their World Series title.

"This is the time of year when you make a name for yourself in sports. You know, red light players," Curt Schilling, who will start Game 1 for Arizona against St. Louis, said Monday.

"As a pitcher, I try to feed on that. It's crunch time," he said. "All that money that they pay us, this is where they collect their dividends from that."

The best-of-five first round starts

Tuesday afternoon at Enron Field, where Maddux and the NL East champion Atlanta Braves will face the Central-winning Houston Astros.

Maddux will be making his 25th postseason start. The Braves have won 10 straight division titles, but have won only one World Series championship.

With 88 wins, the Braves have the fewest wins among the eight playoff teams. Everyone else has at least 91.

"I really don't think we've had an off-year," Maddux said. "I'd hope we can have five or six more off-years like this one."

Astros stars Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio are hoping to overcome postseason failures. Despite winning division titles from 1997-99, Houston never made it past the first round and twice was chased by Atlanta. AP

Rainforest Challenge up

ATOY Jamila of Team Extreme Adventure Motorsports and Angeles City 4-Wheelers Larry Mendiola will represent the country in the 5th International Rainforest Challenge in Malaysia after topping the final leg of the Caltex Delo Rainforest Challenge recently in Sierra Madre, Rizal.

Jamila garnered a total of 888 points while Mendiola had 887 points to finish 1-2 among the country's best 4x4 drivers, who fought it out for five days and 10 grueling stages in the steep and muddy terrain of Sierra Madre.

Jamila and Mendiola will fly to Malaysia in November to compete in the world off-road championships. Mendiola's teammate, Dante Dunga, came in third with 816 points.

"We are ecstatic that we've achieved our goal of selecting the best driver to represent the Philippines. Our selection process, which took us to as far as Mindanao, was very challenging for the competitors who all did their best," said Jean-Ernest Maningo, Caltex Delo Product Category Manager during the awarding ceremonies.

Daly skips Match Play

VIRGINIA WATER, England—John Daly refused to play in this week's World Match Play Championship because organizers declined to get the American home in a private jet. Without Daly, organizers filled the 12th and final spot with Seve Ballesteros, leaving the event on the West Course at Wentworth weakened and without an American for the first time in its 38-year history. AP

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

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TENNIS: WTA Sparkassen Cup, Quarterfinal & Semifinal at 8 p.m. (r), Finals at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: Senior PGA—Allianz Championship, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports. This is the PGA Tour at 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports
BASEBALL: Baseball Max at 1:30 p.m. (r - 7 p.m.) on ESPN
VOLLEYBALL: Jeep Copa America Volleyball at 11 a.m. on ESPN

PBA waits for go signal on Asiad



NOY Castillo (left) must score more to boost Purefoods' chances against Tanduay tonight. FILE PHOTO

BY JUNE NAVARRO

PBA officials yesterday expressed readiness on the league's commitment to represent the country in the Asian Games to be held next year in Pusan, South Korea.

There's one major hitch though: the Basketball Association of the Philippines has yet to give its blessings on the PBA's participation in the quadrennial event.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino said they are waiting for the green light from the BAP that would allow the league to start the ball rolling on the selection of players and coaching staff as soon as possible.

"A long preparation begets a positive outcome so we have to form a team as early as possible," said Bernardino, who, along with his deputy Sonny Barrios, attended yesterday's PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn.

But in the event the BAP gives its nod, the PBA, Bernardino stressed, should possess a blanket authority on the preparation, training and operation of the team.

"It's the BAP's call to nominate us but the PBA should operate on the same parameters as before," said Bernardino.

Since the Beijing Asiad in 1990, the PBA has

complete control over the national team's participation in the games, which was further strengthened by the memorandum of agreement forged by the BAP and the PBA.

Bernardino said they would assign the head coach, sit down with the coaching staff, select the players and lay down the programs on which the country's campaign will stand.

He added Barrios already presented a possible calendar of events that will be followed once the team starts its training for the games, which is tentatively set in September next year.

"The MOA states that the PBA will be responsible for the Asian Games until such a time the BAP forms a national pool to represent the country in international competitions," said Bernardino.

In the past three Asiads, the PBA-supported national team fared with average success against the rest of the field.

The Nationals, led by coach Robert Jaworski and Ramon Fernandez, finished second behind China in 1990. It was followed by a fourth-place finish in the 1994 Hiroshima Asiad behind a San Miguel-backed national quintet led by head coach Norman Black.

In the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, the RP Centennial Team brought home the bronze medal through the efforts of superstars Johnny Abarrientos, Kenneth Duremdes and Marlou Aquino.

Andok's targets lead; Negros tackles Davao

THE ANDOK'S San Juan Knights are on a roll; the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems are on a fall.

It's not natural for the Knights to be the favorites when they collide with the Gems at 5:30 p.m. today in the MBA Second Phase at the San Juan Gym.

Andok's San Juan beat LBC Batangas, 86-82, Sunday night to catch up with its victim at the top and a sixth straight victory tonight would catapult the Knights at the helm of the eight-team field.

Noted for their defensive savvy, the Knights have also displayed their offensive capability this conference and are, in fact, pacing the league in scoring with an average output of 104 per game.

Chris Calaguio and Bruce Dacia are averaging more than 20 points each for the Knights, while Chito

Victolero is superbly orchestrating their plays.

Undeath the basket, Olanzie Rodriguez is sowing terror with his shot blocking while Rafi Reavis is controlling the boards.

These are the players the Gems must watch out for although Andok's San Juan coach Philip Cezar can also count on Gilbert Castillo, Randy Alcantara, Kalani Ferreria and Danny Capobres.

The Gems are reeling from a 106-103 overtime loss to the Soccargen Marlins last Sunday and with a 3-3 card appear far from the form that gave them the Intra-Conference crown last year.

For Cebuana Lhuillier to stand a chance against Andok's San Juan, Peter Naron, Homer Se, Al Solis and Stephen Padilla should deliver along with new acquisitions Joey Santamaria, Chris de Jesus and Bobby Jose.

Negros tries to get back on track when it tackles TPG Davao in the 3 p.m. opener at the RMC Gym in Davao City.

After winning their first three games on the road, the Negros Slashers were beaten by the Gems, 83-78, ironically at their homecourt (USLS Gym) in Bacolod City on Sept. 30.

Roy Luarca

P'foods to run-gun vs Tanduay today

DEPRIVED of height, Purefoods will bank on quickness when it faces agonizing Tanduay while Alaska flashes its winning formula against Red Bull in a pair of PBA thrillers today at the Philsports Arena.

The Hotdogs, still sizzling hot after scoring a 92-82 stunner over the Red Bull Thunder a week ago, collide with the Rhummasters at 5:10 p.m. or two hours before the Alaska-Red Bull skirmish.

Similar to their past games, the Hotdogs are again expected to play with a limp frontline as they continue to miss the services of Andy Seigle, who will definitely be out of the season due to a foot injury.

Although EJ Feihl is back on harness, coach Eric Altamirano said the 7-foot slotman would spend limited time on the floor as he has yet to fully re-

Standings	W	L
Sta. Lucia	6	1
Talk N Text	5	2
Shell	4	2
Pop Cola	4	3
Purefoods	3	3
Ginebra	3	3
Red Bull	2	3
San Miguel	2	4
Alaska	1	5
Tanduay	1	5

GAMES TODAY (PhilSports Arena)	W	L
5:05p.m.—Purefoods vs Tanduay		
7:10p.m.—Alaska vs Red Bull		

cover from a foot ailment that sidelined him for a month.

"EJ is not yet 100 percent. Same thing with Richard Yee, who sprained his ankle two weeks back. We'll just try to cover our height weakness with quickness," said Altamirano.

While a victory will give the Hotdogs a share of fourth place with Pop Cola at 4-3, another setback for the Rhummasters will lock them up at the cellar.

The Rhummasters, who have Eric Menk, Jeffrey Cariaso and Jason Webb reactivated from the injury list, are suffering from a four-game slide with a 96-92 debacle against the Aces as the most recent.

It was the Aces' breakthrough victory after experiencing a winless spell for five consecutive games. They are tied with the Rhummasters at 1-5.

June Navarro

Letter from La Union

LATE is never late. That is a dictum I place in my wallet with pride.

Below is a letter from a friend, who writes to me once in a blue moon but when he does, I immediately drop anything that I'm doing. I read him in earnest, for he always comes up with fresh ideas. His logic is oftentimes unassailable. Read on.

"Dear Al,

"We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to the Filipino medallists in the Kuala Lumpur XXI Southeast Asian Games and their coaches. They did us proud.

"On the other hand, we are saddened by the reaction of our sports leaders, who seem to be very contented with mediocrity. Imagine, considering silver medals as "almost golds" or "near misses." What a poor excuse for failure!

"We think the performance of the more than 500-strong Philippine delegation in KL was dismal because:

"1. Before the Games, our leaders set a conservative goal of 40 gold medals. Bringing home 30 gives them a score of 75 percent. What do you call a performance of 25 percent off the target?

"2. Garnering 30 gold medals out of 391 was getting only 7.67 percent of the pie.

"Yet, only a decade ago, just after the big earthquake that devastated many areas of Luzon and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo, the Philippines had 91 golds out of 328 (27.74 percent of the pie) in the 1991 XVI SEA Games—a gold medal shy of the tally of champion Indonesia. But, nobody called the 62 silver medals then as "almost golds" although there were many close finishes like:

"1. Lydia de Vega (23.95) losing to Govindamy Shanti (23.92) of Malaysia by three hundredths of a second in the 200 meters, or

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



"2. Arianne Cerdana (4,479) short by nine pins to Pranee Kitipongthaya of Thailand in the Bowling All-Events, or

"3. Akiko Thomson (59.25) losing to Ratiporn Wong of Thailand by eight hundredths of a second in the 100-meter freestyle.

"What a sad signal we are giving our countrymen, especially the youth. In these times, the will to excel must be primordial. With the new economic order, competition will be very stiff and we have to be competitive—and the only way is through excellence. The performance of athletes in competitions shows the level of human development his or her country has reached. We have to show to and build in the psyche of our people, the will to excel in sports and other areas of human endeavor. Sports should be a building block of good values and winning attitudes.

"To our sports leaders, 'Hindi ba panahon na para subukan naman natin ang iba?"

"Your friend in sports, Engr. Joseph A. Dumuk City of San Fernando, La Union"

Right you are, Joseph. Our sports leaders should have resigned the minute they got back from Kuala Lumpur, especially those responsible for making the 40-gold medal prediction.

Sadly, this is the Philippines, where honor-to-most sports officials, it seems—is as cheap as a bar of soap.

Barredo endorses tennis

PHILIPPINE Sports Association for the Differently Aabled (Philspada) president Mike Barredo will recommend the inclusion of wheelchair tennis as a regular event in the second Philspada National Games slated April next year.

Barredo made the announcement after the successful staging of the first Asean Wheelchair Tennis Clinic, which attracted more than 40 players from all over the country.

International Tennis Federation Wheelchair Development officer Mark Bullock, one of the trainers in the clinic held from Sept. 28-30 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center, was overwhelmed by the turnout of participants, the biggest he has handled in the Asian region. He was also amazed by the athleticism of the athletes and their ability to absorb the latest techniques.

LPGA cancels Korea tournament

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida—The LPGA Tour and title sponsor Sports Today said Monday they have canceled the tournament in South Korea next week because of the military action in Afghanistan.

"This was the most prudent action," commissioner Ty Votaw said.

The Sports Today CJ Nine Bridges Classic was to

be played Oct. 19-21 in Jeju, South Korea. It is expected to resume next year.

"While we want to host the best women golfers in the world in Korea, we also want to have this event at a time when our fans and players can fully enjoy the experience," said Chun Sang Don, senior executive director of Sports Today.

AP

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

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Doves of peace to be freed to face the dogs of war

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

PEACE advocates today will march to the US Embassy to demand an end to the US-led strikes on key military targets in Afghanistan and urge first world leaders to take a diplomatic course in countering

the threat of global terrorism. With the launching today of the "Peace with Justice" Peace Camp or Campaign for Peace and Justice, Filipino civil liberty advocates hope to put an end to the US and British military offensive in Afghanistan. "The doves of peace must be freed in response to the dogs of war already

unleashed by the United States and Great Britain on Afghanistan," said Peace Camp convenor and Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza.

Another group, the Justice not War Coalition, also maintained that "diplomacy and international cooperation" is the best solution to the terrorist threat. "Americans should take advantage

of multilateral processes and agencies for this purpose and refuse to bless any irresponsible, reckless, open-ended wars by their president," the Justice not War Coalition said in a statement.

At least a hundred leaders led by running priest Robert Reyes, Nini Quezon-Avanceña, Fr. Ben Moraleda, Representatives Etta Rosales and Renato

Magtubo are expected to attend the 10 a.m. launch of Peace Camp at the Ellinwood Church in Malate today.

The leaders, along with thousands of supporters, would later march in a peace rally to the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

Peace Camp convenors said that while they condemned terrorism as "a

heinous crime against humanity," they also oppose the US and British military operations in Afghanistan as a solution to the threat.

On Monday night, activists allied with Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Justice not War Coalition marched to the US Embassy to light candles, say

DOVES/A24

Kidnappers gave victim taxi fare



BY ALCUIN PAPA

TWO days after 13-year-old Mark John Giga was kidnapped in Sauyo, Novaliches on Sept. 26, his abductors released him when no ransom was paid.

The kidnappers also gave the boy taxi fare and he managed to reach his home unharmed.

On Monday, six men were arrested for Giga's abduction. Two of those arrested were found to be active members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, authorities said.

Arrested were Joer Bualas, 30, a resident of Las Piñas City and a native of Butuan City; Wilfredo Blanca, 39, of Muntinlupa City; Manuel Cruz, 38, a

meat dealer of Fort Bonifacio, Makati and a native of Cabanatuan City; Joselim Arnuco, 39, of Fort Bonifacio, Makati, a native of Cebu City and an active member of the Philippine Army's 3rd Infantry Division; Philip Pegarido, 34, of Dasmariñas, Cavite and a native of Zamboanga City; and Virgilio Corpuz, 39, of Fort Bonifacio, Makati, a native of Cotabato City and an active member of the AFP's Civil Operations Group, said National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-

KFR Task Force chief Deputy Director Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

They were arrested on Monday in simultaneous operations in Las Piñas, Parañaque and Makati City.

Giga was on board his family's Tamaraw FX when he was abducted on Sept. 26 when he had just come from his classes at the Marian School of Quezon City in Sauyo, Novaliches. His kidnappers brought him to a safehouse in Calamba, Laguna, but they released him two

days later, giving him cab fare, when no ransom was paid.

Ebdane could not explain why Giga was released. But he told reporters, "there are

complications in this case."

Giga was listed as among the kidnap victims of the Valencia KFR Group, said to be

KIDNAPPERS/A24

Traders think of leaving Valenzuela

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

FILIPINO-CHINESE businessmen want to get out of Valenzuela following the spate of kidnapping incidents in the city that started two months ago.

"We want to leave because police seem to be incapable of protecting us," a businesswoman, who asked not to be named, yesterday told reporters.

The source, who has been a Valenzuela resident for 20 years, said she and several other businessmen "have been seriously considering moving out of the city" since the abductions started.

He said businessmen have been in a "state of panic" since the kidnapping and killing of Connie Wong, sister-in-law of Uratex foam owner Robert Cheng, last week.

Local authorities should do something about the abductions if only to prevent Valenzuela from becoming the kidnapping center of the country, she said.

At least four kidnapping cases have been reported in Valenzuela and nearby areas since last month.

Rep. Magi Gunigundo yesterday took the local police to task for their seeming inability to prevent abduc-

tions in the city.

He said the kidnappings could have been avoided if police had been visible and efficient in intelligence gathering.

Supt. Leopoldo Urena, Valenzuela police chief, yesterday admitted he and his men have been finding it hard to combat kidnapping primarily because of lack of police personnel and equipment.

Prior to the Wong kidnap-slay, heavily armed men reportedly seized four Chinese businessmen near the border of Valenzuela and Quezon City.

Several days later, a student was abducted from his house.

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Invest in your bones-DOH

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

FILIPINOS should "invest in their bones" to prevent osteoporosis and other bone diseases that go with age, according to the Department of Health.

This can be done by developing the habit of drinking high-calcium milk and eating similarly calcium-rich foods, the DOH said as it focused attention on the observance of National Osteoporosis Awareness Week.

"With the more than five percent increase in the elderly population in the country, the DOH expects an increase in the incidence of osteoporotic fragility fractures if the situation is unchecked," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a statement.

"Proper nutrition consisting of calcium-rich food like milk, liver, egg yolk and seafood should be a daily part of diet, especially during a child's early years," Dayrit said. "This should be sustained throughout (a person's) lifetime."

Osteoporosis is reportedly the most prevalent bone disease in humans and affects mostly females. Women are at a greater risk of osteoporosis because their bones are 20 percent to 30 percent less dense than those of men. But the disease can also develop in men.

The DOH also stressed the importance of preventive measures such as exposure to early morning sunlight to stimulate Vitamin D production in the body, regular exercise, avoiding smoking and reduction of alcohol consumption.

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GMA

A crying orphan wonders why they had to kill a saint

THE CRIPPLED girl, lone survivor in a murderous attack by Muslim terrorists 16 years ago, kept wondering why they had to kill the priest who nursed her back to life. The priest also later sent her to college.

Emilia Renoblas, now 27, hitched a ride from Villasis, Pangasinan on Sunday to be at the Malate Church for a 2:30 p.m. Mass that same day.

Actually, Emilia, with a fresh, smooth face, was all set to take a passenger bus on Saturday but was persuaded by her current employer to join the early Sunday morning ride back from Pangasinan to Manila.

Very early last month, Emilia borrowed P5,000 from her employer to buy a plane ticket.

She left early and made it to Cagayan de Oro in the afternoon of Sept. 1, barely an hour before they buried Fr. Rufus Halley, the well-loved Irish friar who was killed by Muslim attackers in an aborted kidnapping try in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur on Aug. 28.

Emilia, nicknamed Bebing, told us she would've risked anything, including her other good leg, just to be at the Malate Church last Sunday. It was the 40th day after Fr. Halley's death and a special Mass was to be celebrated for him.

We were together in that Sunday ride back to Manila and Bebing took the occasion to candidly detail the reason behind her persistence.

Bebing, a hotel and restaurant management graduate, referred to Fr. Halley, popularly known as Father Popong, as "My Guardian."

She swore she owed her life and everything she has become to the slain priest.

Bebing obviously did not realize that, in narrating how she survived the terrorist attack where her father and elder brother were killed,

BARE EYE

*Recall
Trinidad*



she was also helping detail what could closely resemble the life of a saint.

"Ni hindi nagparamdam," Bebing sighed in trying to explain that it was already 40 days since Fr. Popong was slain and she had neither felt nor smelled any hint of his presence.

The afternoon she learned of the priest's brutal slaying, Bebing nearly passed out. She cried and cried and refused to touch her supper.

She continued to grieve on the succeeding days and Bebing said her co-workers at the Villa Monaliza Resort in Villasis, which she manages, thought she had lost her mind.

Truth is, she nearly did. She explained that, if not for the loving care of the slain priest, she would have had wasted away slowly or died.

Fr. Popong chanced upon Bebing in a hospital where she was rushed after she had been discovered bleeding and dying at a roadside grassland in Balabagan.

This was nearly 16 years ago, when Bebing was only 11.

She recalled that the doctors had all but given up on her. Her abdomen was mutilated by armalite bullets. Her right foot was also broken in the attack that killed her father on the spot.

After the unexpected burst of gunfire, Bebing remembered her

kuya, already mortally wounded, pleading with her to hide in the tall grasses.

The attackers, which Bebing identified as MI's or Emays, obviously for MILF members, first asked her father, a worker at the Lobregat farm in Balabagan, if there were security forces patrolling around. The father assured them there was none.

But, as they were walking back home, the intruders, hooded and wearing fatigue-colored uniforms, just started firing at them, Bebing said.

She said she didn't know how she survived. It was a sort of miracle. She had already lost a lot of blood when she was discovered before dark on the day of the massacre.

The morning after, Fr. Popong, who had obviously heard of the killings, visited the lone survivor in the hospital.

Bebing was already motherless and the death of her father rendered her an outright orphan.

The savaged poor girl had to move her bowels through a hole in her stomach. She could not get up as her right foot had been shattered by gunfire.

Fr. Popong did everything to nurse the orphan back to life. She was moved to a bigger hospital, with the Irish priest carrying her bodily.

Bebing said her guardian spent his own money and she underwent a series of operations that helped her move her bowels normally. After that, Fr. Halley had her right foot repaired.

When she was well enough, she was sent back to school. After she finished high school, Bebing took up hotel and restaurant management in Ozamis, all this through the courtesy and care of Fr. Rufus Halley who never failed to person-

ally check on the progress of the orphaned girl.

Well, as it would turn out, Bebing's case was not a rare one. Random inquiries would bare that Fr. Halley had ministered to countless other helpless souls.

Nando Balahan, a native of Malabang in Lanao, said he was a personal friend of the late priest who never failed to give him encouragement. Balahan, a former ditch digger, is now a successful contractor who specializes in making swimming pools.

Fr. Popong, Balahan bared, could speak the popular dialects around the Muslim region, Visayan, Tagalog, etc. The priest was a friend to everybody, Muslim and Christian, young and old, whom he had helped in various, loving ways.

At the time of his death, Fr. Halley was also helping run a high school with the support of Columban fathers.

Fr. Halley, 57, had actually been asked by his family to return to Ireland. But the notes he had left on the progress of the high school, where the enrollees are composed of 95 percent Muslims and 5 percent Christians, could explain why he dared risk his life in a troubled region.

Wrote Fr. Halley in a report to his Columban superiors: "There's respect here for each other's religion and you can see friendships growing before your eyes in a natural way. It makes things worthwhile. It's indeed difficult and, at times, chaotic. But peacemaking is not an optional extra. There's no other choice!"

At the end of the Sunday ride, the orphaned girl, was assured she need not grieve.

She had been under the care of a saint, her new friends told Bebing.



GABALDON dead in the driver's seat.

JESS YUSON

Ambushed

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman was shot dead in front of his wife early yesterday morning as they took their son to school in Quezon City.

Nelson Gabaldon, 32, of Cubao, Quezon City, was killed when an unidentified gunman peppered his gold Mazda sedan (USU-501) with bullets, said investigator SPO1 Cresenciano Bajao of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

Gabaldon was shot seven times and died on the spot while his wife Prudence was unhurt, Bajao said.

Police suspect that a business rival might have a hand in the killing of Gabaldon.

Investigators recovered five .45-caliber bullets at the crime scene and are now hunting down the gunman and two other men who acted as lookout and getaway driver, Bajao added.

He said the Gabaldons had just dropped off their son at the Mont

Michel school on Calamba Street in Barangay Sto. Domingo when the gunmen struck about 7:15 a.m. yesterday.

Witnesses told police they had seen the suspects loitering around the school since last week.

Minutes before the cold-blooded murder, the gunman allegedly bought cigarettes from a sari-sari store near the school while the man who acted as a lookout bought candy.

Witnesses then heard the candy man say, "they're here," with a heavy accent in Filipino.

"(Gabaldon) was backing up when the gunman approached the driver's window," Bajao said. "He opened fire at close range."

The gunman and then ran toward the corner of Calamba and Banawe streets, where the third suspect waited for them on a motorcycle, Bajao said.

Gabaldon's body was taken to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

Sampaloc fire kills three

BY JEROME ANING

THREE members of a family were burned to death in a two-hour fire that razed a cooperative market and a row of houses in Sampaloc, Manila before dawn yesterday.

The charred remains of Buenaventura Oboyes, 44, his wife Melanie, also 44, and their daughter Maria Victoria, 5, had been recovered and identified, according to Chief Insp. Fennimore Jaudian, head of the city fire bureau's arson division.

Witnesses told fire investigators that Buenaventura and his wife rushed into the burning market after learning that Maria Victoria, their youngest child, was still inside.

The couple never came back. Their other children, Mark Joseph, 9, and Harlene, 14, were treated at the Santo Tomas University Hospital for third-degree burns.

The Oboyeses, who ran a wholesale fishball stall, were sleeping on the mezzanine of the Basilio Market on Dipitan Street when the fire broke out about 3 a.m.

Witnesses said they heard a loud explosion on the ground floor near the Oboyeses' stall. Fire investigators led by SFO4 Danilo Talusan theorized the explosion could have been caused by a leaking liquefied petroleum gas tank or an electric appliance that short-circuited.

The flames quickly spread and consumed the place, which was largely made of wood. The couple was able to rescue Mark Joseph and Harlene but Buenaventura returned to the blazing market to look for their youngest child.

When Buenaventura failed to come out, Melanie followed him inside.

The fire also gutted at least 15 houses and a bakery. The blaze was put out around 5 a.m. Damage could be at least P10 million, SFO4 Talusan estimated.

Boy needs medicines

ROMMEL Sio, 7, is undergoing treatment for leukemia at the Fe del Mundo Medical Center.

He was earlier diagnosed to have bacterial meningitis and was cured. But immediately after, he developed another infection. The cost of medicines alone for the infection amounts to P12,000 per day, according to his doctors.

His parents cannot afford the medicines and they are appealing to the kind-hearted to help save Rommel.

Donations may be sent to the Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation Phils. Inc. at 11 Banaue St., Quezon City, tel. 712-0845.



SIO

Kidnappers ...

(From page A23)

made up of remnants of the Red Scorpion Gang.

But Ebdane said they have not found any link between Giga's abductors and the Valencia Group. He said instead that the suspects were members of a group operating out of Laguna and Batangas.

Three male witnesses said they saw Giga being held inside the Tamaraw FX.

Ebdane's group later found the vehicle in an auto repair shop owned by Dante Bayonam in Barangay Mayapa in Calamba, Laguna. The Tamaraw FX had already been repainted white and given a new plate number (DMK-322). Charges of kidnapping have been filed against the suspects before Manila courts.

Doves of peace ...

(From page A23)

prayers and denounce the attacks.

"The bombings have begun and we fear that more innocent lives will be lost in the name of anti-terrorism than those already sacrificed in last month's terrorist attacks in the US," Justice net War convenor Carol Araullo said.

"The road to peace will not be paved by bombs and bullets, rather by people who nurture in their hearts the flame of justice and democracy," she added.

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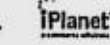
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DOT to tap stars in pushing RP tourism

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism is holding consultations with travel and tourism companies on how to tap popular Filipino entertainers as ambassadors of goodwill to promote Philippine tourism.

Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon said the ongoing consultations are in preparation for the launch of the department's Ambassadors of Goodwill program.

Gordon and other DOT officials earlier discussed the idea with officials of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM) and Professional Artists Managers Inc. (Pami), both of which pledged support for the program.

"Many of our singers and entertainers have large followings

abroad," he noted. "We can ask them to make a pitch for the country's tourism during their performances abroad."

Singers such as Pops Fernandez, Martin Nievera, Regine Velasquez, Sharon Cuneta and rock bands annually hold concerts in the United States, Canada, and Japan not only for Filipino communities there but

also for foreign audiences.

Lesser-known Filipino singers and bands perform in clubs in many parts of Asia and Europe, and they could also be tapped as tourism envoys, Gordon said.

"We cannot allow the fear of terrorist attacks derail our programs to promote the country abroad," he declared.

Gordon said these ambassadors of goodwill would be asked to talk, in between performances, about special tour packages and tourist destinations and to distribute tourism materials to entice their audiences to visit the Philippines.

The DOT is preparing incentives for the entertainers who will participate in the Ambassador of Goodwill

program, according to the tourism boss.

The Ambassador of Goodwill program dovetails with other DOT initiatives, such as the Volunteer-12 and Balikbayani 2001 projects, which seek to tap all available resources to augment the limited promotional budget of DOT and contribute to the country's economy.

Marvin Agustin remembers his lessons well

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

OUT of self-respect and for the sake of his family, young star Marvin Agustin prefers not to talk about the nasty comments made against him by a starlet. There are other far more interesting, more important things than what she said, according to him.

Five years in show business has made Marvin responsible, mature and wiser than his 22 years. To his family, he has become the father figure.

"Show biz has been good to me and I feel blessed," says the young man who is also a businessman. "The senior stars I worked with gave me a common advice I remembered and followed. They told me to save a portion of my earnings just in

case the industry has no need for my services anymore. I heard stories of how some stars who were popular became poor out of negligence and I certainly don't want to end up that way."

A year ago, Marvin ventured into a doughnut franchise business and the result has been encouraging so far. "The key to success in any business is personal supervision," he says, sounding like he's already an authority. "Show your staff that you care and they will pay you back with quality work."

Today, Marvin divides his time between his show biz commitments, his businesses and going back to school to earn a college degree.

"Rico (Yan) kept urging me to resume

my studies," he says. "I saw how he mixed schooling and movies with great difficulty. Actually, I envied him. I value education very much. I just didn't have time to go back to it. I am now determined to finish a course because that has always been my dream."

Marvin is a first year mass communication student at Thames International. "Somehow the course is related to my job. It should be useful if I decide to work behind the cameras someday. I'm interested in a lot of things in the industry, like post-production work or filming commercials."

Marvin hasn't done any movie since the commercial and critical hit "Tanging Yaman," directed by Laurice Guillen and shown last December. But he is not complaining.

He is in the 30-minute Wednesday night sitcom "Wattamen" together with Rico and Dominic Ochoa. Scripted by Jose Javier Reyes, "Wattamen" is a glimpse into the minds of the modern Pinoy male. Ai Ai delas Alas plays a strict landlady.

All three young men are also on "MTB" on ABS-CBN Channel 2 five days a week.

Marvin is Matty, the naïve roommate whom everyone takes advantage of. "Playing the character is fun because I am both naïve and gullible in real life. I consider the sitcom an extension of my bonding with Rico and Dominic. When you see each other five times a week you automatically become a family. I treat them as brothers since I don't have any brothers in real life."



STAR, BUSINESSMAN and student Marvin feels blessed.

Onemig Bondoc a surprise hit as concert artist

HE is far from giving concert artists a run for their money, but young actor Onemig Bondoc recently held sold-out concerts on the US West Coast.

The reception of the audiences surprised even Onemig, who never even thought he could carry out a full-length concert by himself.

"Martin (Nievera) and Gary (Valenciano) are still the top concert performers," he admits. "But I just want to try everything."

Onemig was tapped to perform in Los Angeles last year by West Covina-based concert producer John Ling.

"He simply called me up and introduced himself on the phone," Onemig shares. "He said he wanted to produce a show with me in LA."

In April, Onemig did a one-night show at Hop Bar in downtown LA.

Another producer, Susan Rodrigo, saw him perform and hired

him to do another show last month. This time, it was in a bigger venue, the 500-seater Naga Bar, where Onemig starred in "Up Close and Personal" with fellow ABS-CBN contract artist Carol Banawa.

"We were surprised because the tickets were sold out," Onemig says. "On the day of the concert, so many people were still looking for tickets, but the producers didn't want to oversell because they didn't want the venue to be too crowded."

The Naga Bar crowd was a mix of Filipinos and Americans, a first for Onemig.

"I took it as a challenge," he says. "I had to make an effort to be good. The reception of the crowd was very encouraging. I didn't expect the support of Filipinos in LA to be like that."

Onemig sang pop songs, mostly Back-

street Boys hits and dance ditties like "Buttercup," as well as OPM tunes like Ariel Rivera's "Minsan Lang Kitang Iibigin."

The trip also served as a much-needed break for Onemig, who was accompanied by his road manager, Vangie Aguilar.

After the concert, Onemig went to San Francisco and Las Vegas. He was away for almost two weeks.

Next year, Onemig is slated to do more shows in Washington, San Francisco and New York.

On the local front, Onemig is in the forthcoming Star Cinema film release, "Trip."

On TV, he is a mainstay of the weekly suspense thriller, "Oka Tokat." He also had a brief stint as host of the daily wake-upper on ABS-CBN, "Alas-Singko y Media." But he had to leave the show since his show biz

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

schedule couldn't allow him to keep up with an early morning program.

Despite his commitments, Onemig has managed to keep up with his studies. He is now a business management freshman under the home study program.

"It's important to have a fallback option when I get older," he says. "Show biz is not always a stable job. I am aware of that. If I have a college degree, I can always go into business later on."

Born to an affluent family, 24-year-old Onemig, who lives in a Greenhills condo unit, is thinking of buying a house.

Two for the newscast

CHINO Trinidad is a familiar face and name to basketball fans and is the commissioner of the Philippine Basketball League (PBL). When the news anchor's seat on "Tele-Dyaryo" on National Broadcasting Network (NBN) was offered to him, he took it as a challenge.

"Handling the news for me is an entirely new ballgame, but I feel that I'm already catching up," he says. "It helps



that I'm working with NBN guys who are all supportive."

Chino's co-anchor in the nightly two-hour program is Gani Oro.

Chino and Gani make for an active, lively tandem. They take turns in directing the flow of news reports from the NBN news team in Manila and its provincial news centers.

While other networks rely on a male and female combination in their nightly newscasts, NBN banks on Chino and Gani. If they seem so at ease in their anchoring roles, it is because they previously worked together on radio.

Chino handled the sports updates in Gani's early morning radio broadcast, "Balita Oro Mismo," on dzBB.

"Part of the challenge is how to make it seem easy," explains Gani, who is the more experienced news broadcaster between the two.

Chino is a seasoned sportscaster. He started with handling the sports news on radio and later shifted to sports broadcasting on TV.

"What was really new to me was reading from a tele-prompter," he says. "As a sportscaster, I'm comfortable with adlibs, espe-

cially when covering basketball games. News reporting calls for developing a skill in reading a report that is written for you."

Chino and Gani have the chemistry that "Tele-Dyaryo" director Ed Finlan was looking for at the time the news program was still just a concept. When he heard the tandem on radio, Finlan knew he had found his news anchors.

Gani was a radio drama talent when Mike Enriquez suggested that he could be a regular broadcaster.

Chino takes pride in being the son of Inquirer columnist Recah Trinidad. At first, he thought he was destined to follow in his father's footsteps. He took up AB English and shifted to BS Zoology, intending to

take up medicine.

"I didn't have my father's knack for writing," Chino admits. "But what I share is his interest in sports. It's just a matter of being in the right place at the right time. Doing the news on TV seemed like a logical move for me."

Even NBN president Mia Concio is confident she has found an ideal pair of news anchors in Gani and Chino.

"I'm happy that they share my excitement for the potential of 'Tele-Dyaryo' and consider it a challenge," she says. "There is so much that needs to be done and I'm fortunate and grateful to have the support, understanding and cooperation of both Chino and Gani, with the rest of the NBN news team."



ONEMIG Bondoc poses beside Superman at the Magic Mountain theme park in Los Angeles.



PRIMETIME newscasters Chino Trinidad (left) and Gani Oro for NBN's "Tele-Dyaryo."



New entertainment route leads to The Brick Road

STA. LUCIA East Grand Mall unveils its newest project, a food and entertainment venue called The Brick Road.

With its shingled wooden house, brick pathways, sculptured pond and American Country motif, The Brick Road at the Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta, Rizal, has more in common with San Francisco's famed Pier 39 than your regular metropolitan restaurant complex.

The Brick Road, designed by architect Claro Florentino, occupies 8,061 sq. m. of the East Wing carpark of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. It opened last summer and now includes established

and new names: TGI Friday's, Don Henrico's and Padi's Point, all successful dining chains.

Among the new places are the 24-hour Sunflowers Café and the cozy teen hangout Club Sundance.

To open soon are dining and leisure choices and coffee shops such as Inakaya Japanese restaurant, Boardwalk KTV and Gloria Maris.

The Brick Road also aims to make Metro Manila's eastern part as a night destination, comparable to Libis, Quezon City.

"This is a place where night owls can go and have lots of fun," says Zaldy R.

Santos, Sta. Lucia vice president for marketing and mall operations.

Exequiel D. Robles, president of Sta. Lucia Realty and Development, in 1991 saw the market potential of a shopping center on the eastern side of the metropolis.

The Brick Road will stage entertainment events such as concerts, fashion shows and others. The complex has its own stage and entertainment area.

The Brick Road is located at the East Wing carpark of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall at the corner of Marcos Highway and Felix Avenue in Cainta, Rizal.



SEN. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan joins Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall executives in the opening of The Brick Road in Cainta, Rizal.

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Porter Stoddard (Warren Beatty) is a well-known New York architect who is at a crossroads; a nexus where twists and turns lead to a myriad of missteps - some with his wife Ellie (Diane Keaton), others with long time friends Mona (Goldie Hawn) and her husband Griffin (Gary Shandling). Deciding which direction to take often leads to unexpected encounters with hilarious consequences in this comedy about life, love, friendship and the sometimes blistering nature of marital bliss.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18

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BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE stars the Spanish legend FERNANDO FERNAN GOMEZ who has a career that spans five decades as an actor, novelist, poet, and director. In 1988, he won the Goya (Spanish Oscar) for Best Lead Actor for his latest film "The Grandfather." The film also stars MANUEL LOZANO, UXIA BLANCO, GONZALO MARTIN URIARTE, ALEXIS de los SANTOS and GUILLERMO TOLEDO. The film won Best Film at the Cleveland International Film Festival & Best Screenplay at the Goya Awards.

Directed by JOSE LUIS GUERDA and written by RAFAEL AZCONA, BUTTERFLY'S TONGUE is based upon the MANUEL RIVAS novel Que Me Quieras, Amor?

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- 2 HULI SA AKTO
- 3 MARITAL RAPE
- 4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 5 OSMOSIS JONES
- 6 13 DAYS
- 7 RESERVE
- 8 RESERVE

PREMIERE
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to 13

- 1 13 DAYS

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

- 1 LA VIDA ROSA
- 2 ENEMY AT THE GATES

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

- 1 RESERVE
- 2 PLAYING WITH FIRE
- 3 LAST ERUPTION

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 851.7864

- 1 HULI SA AKTO

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 RESERVE
- 3 RESERVE
- 4 RESERVE

Baclaran LRT tel 512.0115

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Berma tel 879.2029

- 1 HULI SA AKTO
- 2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 3 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 MARITAL RAPE
- 3 HULI SA AKTO
- 4 RESERVE
- 5 LAST ERUPTION

Iselann Cinema Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 13 DAYS
- 3 OSMOSIS JONES
- 4 MARITAL RAPE
- 5 HULI SA AKTO

Mandaluyong tel 533.3951 / 533.3956

- 1 THE HOLE
- 2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 3 OSMOSIS JONES

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biliran) tel (049) 511.8883

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 ST. FRANCISVILLE
- 3 MARITAL RAPE

Olivarez Los Baños (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 3 MARITAL RAPE

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

- 1 RUSH HOUR 2
- 2 SCARY MOVIE
- 3 SEX MEDUSA

Morales Cinema (Biliran) tel (049) 511.9736

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 3 ST. FRANCISVILLE

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 3 MARITAL RAPE

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

- 1 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 458.1657

- 1 ENEMY AT THE GATES
- 2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 3 SISID

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

- 1 BUKAS BABAH NG DUGO
- 2 ST. FRANCISVILLE
- 3 HEART BREAKER
- 4 FAST & FURIOUS

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

- 1 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 2 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 3 RESERVE
- 4 ST. FRANCISVILLE

Advanced Screening THX DOLBY dts SDDS

PREMIERE NOW SHOWING

13 DAYS

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
NOW SHOWING
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas

GALLERIA
532-9115-16 / 533-7841 loc. 270

- 1 13 DAYS
- 2 13 DAYS
- 3 THE HOLE
- 4 OSMOSIS JONES
- 5 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 6 HARD DAY'S NIGHT
- 7 FAST & FURIOUS
- 8 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 9 MARITAL RAPE
- 10 LAST ERUPTION

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

- 1 13 DAYS
- 2 THE HOLE
- 3 LAST ERUPTION
- 4 OSMOSIS JONES
- 5 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 6 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 7 HARD DAY'S NIGHT

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

- 1 RESERVE
- 2 LAST ERUPTION
- 3 RESERVE
- 4 13 DAYS
- 5 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 6 MARITAL RAPE
- 7 OSMOSIS JONES
- 8 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

IMUS
(046) 471-8188

- 1 13 DAYS
- 2 OSMOSIS JONES
- 3 AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
- 4 SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
- 5 MARITAL RAPE
- 6 SISID

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453

- 1 PRINCESS DIARIES
- 2 ORIGINAL SIN
- 3 ST. FRANCISVILLE
- 4 FINDING FORRESTER
- 5 LA VIDA ROSA
- 6 RUSH HOUR 2

SOON TO OPEN

METRO EAST
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO
THX **ITS** **DDI**
DOLBY **DOLBY DIGITAL**
SMART MONEY ACCEPTED AT ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD GALLERIA AND ERMITA.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MARITAL RAPE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DTS)	13 DAYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LAST ERUPTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE HOLE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	HULI SA AKTO
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	RED DIARIES / ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS
ODEON	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
ODEON-2	LAST ERUPTION
ROBEN	MARITAL RAPE
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SWORDFISH / FINAL FANTASY

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MARITAL RAPE
REMAR	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
REMAR-2	SISID

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BASAGAN NG MUKHA
B	SISID
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-78 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CINE EUROPA 4
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 18)
CINEMA-1	MR. NICE GUY
CINEMA-2	SISID
CINEMA-3	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ST. FRANCISVILLE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
CINEMA-6	MARITAL RAPE
CINEMA-7	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-8	HULI SA AKTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	13 DAYS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-12	THE HOLE
CINEMA-14	LAST ERUPTION
CINEMA-15	SANGGANO'T SANGGAGO

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	HEARTBREAKERS
CINEMA-2	OSMOSIS JONES
CINEMA-3	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
CINEMA-4	HARD DAY'S NIGHT
CINEMA-5	THE HOLE
CINEMA-6	13 DAYS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	IKAW LAMANG
CINEMA-2	LAGING SARIWA ANG SUGAT
CINEMA-4	KALARO

A 26

Hotdog vocalist jams at Dusit

RENE Garcia, original member of the Hotdog Band, will jam with Divas on Oct. 11, Thursday night at the Paulaner Brauhaus of Dusit Hotel Nikko Manila.

Hotdog created and popularized the Manila sound in the '70s. Their hits include "Manila," "Bongga Ka, Day," "Ikaw ang Miss Universe ng Buhay Ko," "Ikaw Pa Rin" and "Annie Batungbacal."

Divas is currently one of the top female acts in the live performance scene. The group will play a solid mix of songs from the '70s, '80s and '90s, plus MTV hits. They perform at Dusit on Thursday nights.

Oktoberfest celebration at Paulaner runs until the end of the month.

For inquiries and reservations, call 867-3333, local 3341 or 3308.

Mowelfund continues to support film workers

THE MOVIE Workers Welfare Foundation Inc. (Mowelfund Inc.) is a non-stock, non-profit organization existing for 27 years now since it was established by founding chair, Joseph Ejercito Estrada.

Mowelfund continues to achieve its mission of supporting the low-income workers in the Filipino film industry through its social welfare programs by aid assistance such as: Medical care/hospitalization—P8,000 and limited to three confinements a year; surgical aid—P13,000, limited confinement to once a year; death assistance—P35,000 payable to beneficiary or to funeral service; and continuing medication of P5,000 once a year.

To apply for membership, an applicant must have worked in the film industry for a maximum of 10 years, must obtain a certification from their film production outfit and submit work history.

Aids and assistance given to members, with cut-off dates from 1995 to 2000 include 200 death aids, 15 of them were stuntmen, medical and hospitalization (surgery confinement and continuing medication) and 714 cases.

To achieve the vision of the Foundation's founding chair to have professional technocrats in the movie industry, the Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI) was created to implement the education program.

A series of workshops is also being conducted on short feature and music videos.

Successful workshoppers of MFI are Neil Dana, Larry Manda, Roberto Quebral, Shane Zarte, Yam Laranas ("Balahibong Pusa" and "Radyo") Lav Diaz and Raymond Red ("Anino" and awardee at Cannes Film Festival on directing).

There are also Ricky Orellana on editing, Ellen Ramos on animation and Nick Deocampo, director of Mowelfund Institute.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Watching machines, ordained shrines and other boob-tube boobos

HOST: Would you go to the movies on a first date?

Guest: OK lang—basta the movie is not sexy.

Host: What if the movie is "Schindler's List"?

Guest: Ay, ayoko. Di ba, X-rated 'yon? (Duh!)

of money in tonight's show?

Contestant: Wow! I would—I would buy a lot of appliances I don't have, like a fridge, and a watching machine!

(Watching machine?—Oh, you mean a TV set!)

Host: What are the tourist sights in your province where you

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

would take a visiting friend? Guest: Well, we have... an old church that's

very beautiful *talaga*. It was even ordained a shrine in 1972! (Ordained? Oh, good, now it can say Mass and hear confession!)

Host: What about you? Where would you bring a tourist in your province?

Second guest: Frankly, I don't know. *Hindi pa kasi develop ang nature in our province!* (Huh?)

Host: You have just given birth to your fifth child. Did you still have a hard time, this time around?

Celebrity mother:

Sa labor part, *awa ng Diyos, hindi na. Pero nahirapan pa rin ako nung struggling ko!* (Ano daw?)

Host: Why are we celebrating the birth anniversary of your uncle?

Guest: Because he gave so much to the country. He was a fighter for other people's rights, for freedom, especially during his lifetime!

Host: What do you think the government can do to improve the standard of living of Filipinos at this time?

Interviewee: *Habulin ang mga magnanakaw sa gobiernong para matulungan ang mga walang trabaho!* (Tenkyu, ha?)

Host: What is the desert that you love to eat most of all—when you want to treat yourself to something special?

Guest: Chocolate mouse! (Yuck!)

Host: Oh, look at the dance contestants, don't they look great?

Co-host: Oh yes! Especially that one, the lady in the modern version of the flapper costume! With a costume like that, she must be a great dancer!

(Thank goodness, you aren't a member of the board of judges!)

Feedback
CONCLUSION of Gerardo B. Reynaldo's letter on pirated tapes and discs: "According to one article, CDs are cheaper to produce when compared to the heyday of the LP. And yet record companies jack up the price of the finished product. This is how Napster and MP3 originated as protest against the increasing inaccessibility of music in the CD media. "Apparently, the demand for good music that's easily available outweighs any sense of propriety. The technology to duplicate songs is there. In the truest sense of the word, economics takes over. If prices weren't so steep, nobody would go illegal. "Decades ago, big groups didn't mind if they were bootlegged. The grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia encouraged his concert-gong fans to bring recording devices with them. At the start of his concerts, Bruce Springsteen would often cry out,

OPENS TODAY!
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THE HOLE
Where Evil Evolves.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41

HEARTBREAKERS - P 13 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45	OSMOSIS JONES - GP 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS - P 13 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10
HARD DAY'S NIGHT - GP 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	THE HOLE - R 18 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	13 DAYS - P 13 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

GRAND OPENING TODAY!

MTRCB RATING GP ALL AGES ADMITTED

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EVERY BODY NEEDS A HERO.
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OSMOSIS JONES
DAVID ARQUER, BRADY BUNNETT, WILLIAM SHATNER, HOLLY SHAWHAN, CHRIS ELLIOTT, and JILL MURRAY
www.osmosisjones.com AOL Keyword: Osmosis Jones

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THE OUTRAGEOUS ADVENTURES CONTINUE!

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AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS
JULIA ROBERTS BILLY CRYSTAL CATHERINE ZETA-JONES JOHN CUSACK

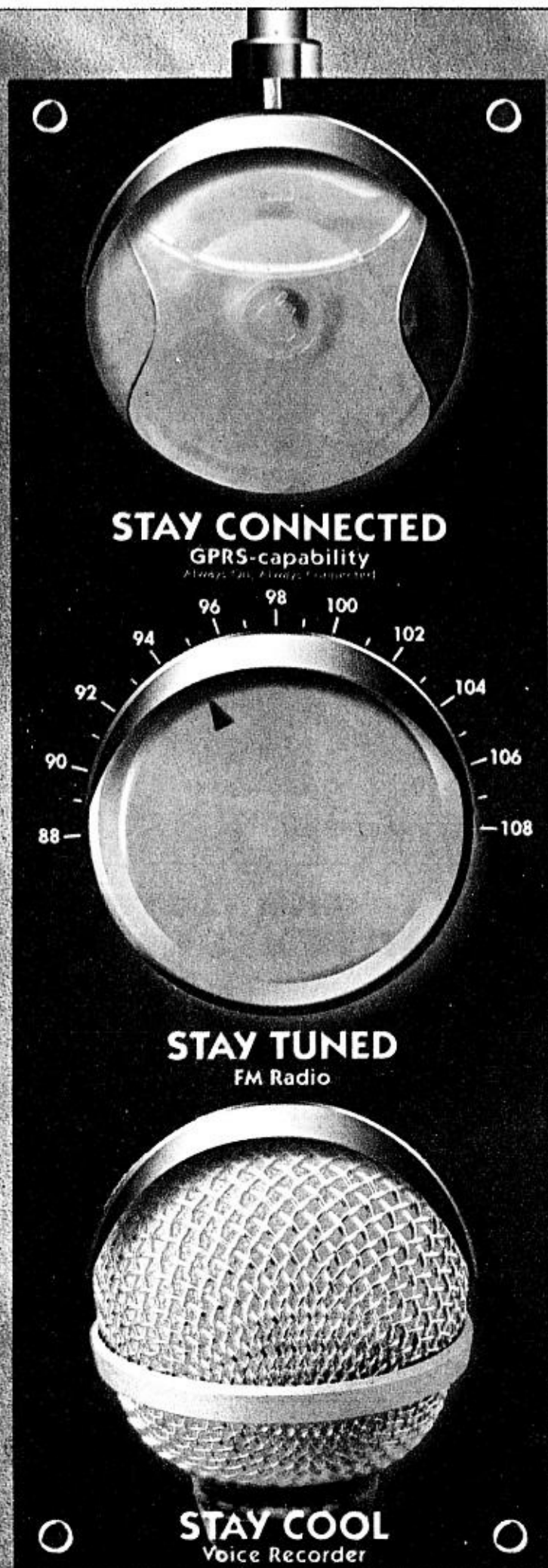
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TONTON GUTIERREZ RAYMOND BAGATSING and PATRICIA JAVIER



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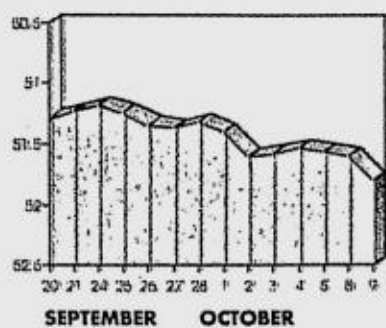
BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 51.80 = \$1

As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 9, 2001

Y 120.12 = \$1

As of 5 p.m.,
Oct. 9, 2001

GOLD: \$291.20/292.20

per ounce Hong Kong,
Oct. 9, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.088021	1.000000	51.5890
Japan	Yen	0.009032	0.008301	0.4282
United Kingdom	Pound	1.613426	1.482900	76.5013
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139506	0.128220	6.6147
Switzerland	Franc	0.673363	0.618888	31.9278
Canada	Dollar	0.696467	0.640123	33.0233
Singapore	Dollar	0.608683	0.559441	28.8610
Australia	Dollar	0.550423	0.505894	26.0986
Bahrain	Dinar	2.886151	2.652661	136.8481
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.290115	0.268645	13.7559
Brunei	Dollar	0.610151	0.560790	28.9306
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000102	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024324	0.022356	1.1533
UAE	Dirham	0.296302	0.272331	14.0493
Korea	Won	0.000836	0.000768	0.0396
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.919100	47.4154
Germany	Mark	0.511291	0.469928	24.2431
France	Franc	0.152450	0.140116	7.2284
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.417069	21.5162
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066794	3.4458
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022784	1.1754
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000475	0.0245
Finland	Markka	0.188188	0.154582	7.9747
Portugal	Escudo	0.004987	0.004584	0.2365
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005524	0.2850
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022784	1.1754
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.167016	60.2052

STOCK MARKET

Shares continue to slide

THE MAIN equities index fell yesterday to a fresh 10-year low as uncertainty following the US-led strikes on Afghanistan clouded the market.

Analysts said traders were worried about the scope and duration of military action and its impact on corporate earnings of local firms and the economy.

"Investors remained skittish given the ongoing military offensive in Afghanistan and its likely long-term impact on global economies. Investors opted out of the market in favor of cash," said BPI Securities Investment analyst Spencer Yap.

The Philippine main index ended down 15.48 points, or 1.48 percent, at 1,033.19 points—its lowest since Nov. 4, 1991.

Turnover was at P276.98 billion, as decliners outpaced gainers 36 to 23 with 35 stocks unchanged.

Traders said foreign brokers sold blue chips led by mall developer SM Prime and the country's second largest Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Other stocks hit by selling pressure were property developer Ayala Land, Equitable PCI Bank and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. *Reuters*

PLDT may buy only 51% of GMA-7

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said yesterday a subsidiary was holding talks to lower its planned purchase of a stake in broadcasting company GMA Network to 51 percent from the original 66.7 percent.

PLDT, the country's largest telecommunications firm, however said it could not yet confirm the final percentage of interest it will acquire in GMA Network and the purchase price.

"To date, the parties are still in

discussions regarding the final terms of the transaction and are considering a sale and purchase of a 51 percent interest in GMA, instead of the originally contemplated 66.7 percent interest," PLDT said in a statement.

Mediaquest Holdings Inc., a wholly owned unit of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, will be the vehicle to acquire GMA. Another PLDT subsidiary, ePLDT Inc., will be a strategic and financial investor in GMA. *Reuters*

Vitarich to advance debt payments

VITARICH Corp., the country's third largest poultry integrator and animal feeds manufacturer, is accelerating payments of its P2.5 billion worth of restructured debts.

According to Vitarich president Armando E. Escobar, the company obtained the approval of its financial creditors that it could settle its P2.5 billion worth of debts three years earlier than its 2008 target, which was originally contained in its 10-year debt restructuring program.

Escobar claimed that as they slowly improve the company's capital structure, they were able to settle debt principals worth P330 million as

early as 1999.

Two of Vitarich Corp.'s top creditors—Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Metrobank—are represented in the company's board.

Vitarich has allotted some P80 million in capital expenditures this year. About P60 million of this will be spent to expand its aquafeeds business.

The Vitarich aquafeeds plant expansion aims to increase its production capacity to nine metric tons an hour from the current five tons.

Vitarich posted pre-tax earnings of P72 million in year 2000, a 139-percent drop from the 1999 income of P172 million.

PLDT selling 20% stake in Smart to repay debt

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday said it would sell 15 to 20 percent of wholly owned Smart Communications Inc. to help pay off maturing obligations over the next three years.

PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said the sale of the minority equity in Smart to a foreign strategic or financial investor would cover about 25 percent of PLDT's \$1.3-billion debt.

"By next year, we should be able to do it. Smart is quite profitable, and it's growing very fast," he said.

Pangilinan said PLDT was already in talks with two foreign companies for the equity sale.

A highly placed official from the PLDT group disclosed that PLDT was considering international telecommunications firms Vodafone



PANGILINAN

and NTT DoCoMo for the strategic partnership in Smart.

The official added that the di-

vestment in Smart was supposed to have taken place this quarter, but it was pushed back to some time next year because of volatile market conditions.

Aside from the divestment in Smart, PLDT is also looking at alternative funding sources such as a bond flotation or loans from foreign creditors to service another 25 percent of its debts.

"We've been to Europe, and that has not been a pleasure trip," Pangilinan said.

To service the remaining 50 percent of the \$1.3-billion debt, Pangilinan said PLDT would use internally generated cash.

"I would say at least half of the maturities in the next three years can actually be settled out of the internal cash flow of the company. The group has continued to demonstrate very strong and sustainable cash flow," he said.

Pangilinan added that PLDT would also exert efforts to raise revenues, control costs and manage its capital expenditures to be able to liquidate or reduce half of its obligations.

"So the size of the problem has been dealt with. It's not as if it's a (very huge) issue ahead of PLDT. I would say at least 75 percent of the issue could be covered," he said.

An initial public offering of Smart is another possibility, Pangilinan said, but he said it would more likely be a private placement than an IPO.

As for obligations that would be maturing this year, Pangilinan said PLDT "already has taken care of that because the year is almost over."

The telecom leader earlier announced the flotation of \$250 million worth of 10-year fixed rate

PLDT/B4

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Fireworks seen as Garcia disputes ouster at PSE board meeting today

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

FIREWORKS are expected today when the Philippine Stock Exchange board meets again two weeks after firing bourse president Ramon T. Garcia.

Garcia, who was ousted by the board for lambasting Metro Pacific Corp. chair Manuel Pangilinan over the issue of the PSE's relocation to the Fort Bonifacio Global City, said he was attending today's meeting.

"I will take exception to my ouster for lack of notice and due process," Garcia said.

Although sacked as bourse president, Garcia still sits as a non-broker director in the PSE board.

Garcia, who had said he was only defending the interest of the exchange, yesterday said he had mustered sufficient support from member-brokers to convene a membership meeting where he would seek

to reverse the decision of the board oustering him as president.

He said he needed only 88 signatories to call for a special membership meeting. He noted that he has now obtained support from the majority of the members and that more supporters were coming out.

On the other hand, Pangilinan, who was likewise a non-broker director of the PSE but resigned after the criticisms from Garcia, is being persuaded by PSE chair Felipe Yap to reconsider his resignation from the PSE board.

On top of the PSE board's agenda today is the new offer submitted by the MPC group for the land donation and construction of the new PSE headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

Half of the PSE's six-member building committee chaired by broker Ismael Cruz resigned last week due to differences in opinion on the negotiating stance with MPC. Two of those who resigned specifically said they



GARCIA

wanted MPC to stick to the original agreement in 1999, wherein the new

PSE premises must be started this year and completed by 2004.

Cruz said the building committee would elevate the matter to the board, which will likewise decide whether to fill up the newly vacated slots in the PSE building committee left by PSE directors Eddie Gobing, Robert Coyiuto and member-broker Charles Shih of Mandarin Securities.

"We'll seek authority from the board to renegotiate the Fort Bonifacio deal," Cruz said.

Cruz had said the new offer from Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., the joint venture between MPC and the Bases Conversion Development Authority, was reasonable enough, although there was still room for improvement.

The final say on the matter, however, rests on the PSE membership, which ratified the original agreement in 1999.

Under FBDC's proposal, a 2,200-square-meter land would be transferred to a new corporation. PSE will become the effective owner of the lot with which FBDC will enter into a joint venture deal for the project construction.

FBDC will construct the core and shell while PSE will do the fit-out of the project area. However, the construction will be over a 10-year period.

At the start of the seventh year from the execution of the project and FBDC has not commenced the construction, FBDC could decide on another two-year extension or simply transfer the donated lot to the PSE without any more conditions.

Philippine Stock Exchange

STOCKS	(As of Tuesday, October 9, 2001)				VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47	47	45	45	731,600
China Banking Corp.	520	570	520	570	13,640
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	20	20	20	20	200,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	190	190	187	188	50,200
Philippine National Bank	48.5	48.5	49	49.5	12,000
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	29	18,500
Security Bank Corp.	17	17.25	16.5	17.25	3,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filinvest Fund Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1280	1280	1280	1280	1,900
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1000	1015	1000	1015	3,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24	23.5	23.75	7,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	590	615	590	600	8,480
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	385	385	377.5	377.5	78,280
Ivanhoe Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	17,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22	22	21.75	22	9,900
Manila Electric Co. B	32.5	33	32	33	1,483,600
Petron Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	2,735,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.18	1.22	1.18	1.18	2,208,000
William, Gothong & Aboltiz	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	9,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republco Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	30,000
Republco Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.22	1.3	118,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	1,672,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.08	2.08	1,007,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.3	671,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.25	11.25	11	11	118,800
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	24.75	24	24.5	5,500
Pure Foods Corp. A	90	90	90	90	100
Pure Foods Corp. B	124	124	124	124	30
RFM Corp.	1.98	2.04	1.98	2.02	1,887,000
San Miguel Corp. A	39	39	38.5	39	23,600
San Miguel Corp. B	51	51	50	50	37,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	1,735,000
Aboltiz Equity Ventures	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	100,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	200
A. Soriano Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	520,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	0.98	0.97	0.97	5,310,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.0875	0.12	0.0875	0.12	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	550,000
Ever-Gotesso Resources	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	200,000
Fillinvest Dev. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
First Phil Hldg Corp.	23	23.5	23	23.5	11,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	920,000
Mageworld Corp.	0.55	0.57	0.55	0.57	570,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.205	0.19	0.19	5,260,000
Muslo Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.38	0.38	3,450,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	200,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.13	610,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.235	0.21	0.235	160,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	2,500,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	209,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	110,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	910,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	800,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	24	24	24	24	8,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	555	585	555	580	1,830
Jollibee Warrants	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	10,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	600
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	3.8	3.85	3.75	3.75	8,953,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	400,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.155	0.155	700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.205	1,000,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.18	3,885,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	100,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	300,000
SM Development Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.9	4.9	8,953,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	240,000
Itoyon-Suyoc Mines A	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	79,200,000
Itoyon-Suyoc Mines B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	1,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	40,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	5,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	30,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	20,000,000
SHARES					
Banks & Fin Svc	1,084,720				81,665,150.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	69,248,030				128,820,625.00
PRO	24,471,000				83,463,040.00
Mining	90,710,000				2,048,400.00
OIL	20,000,000				80,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	205,493,750				276,947,215.00
AVERAGES					
Banks & Fin Svc	423.03				DOWN 7.59
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,480.30				DOWN 9.88
PRO	388.29				DOWN 14.82
Mining	1,070.66				DOWN 20.28
OIL	1.32				UP 0.03
All Shares Index	848.35				DOWN 12.01
Composite	1,033.19				DOWN 15.48
NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 36; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 35; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 94; NO. OF TRADES: 1,850					

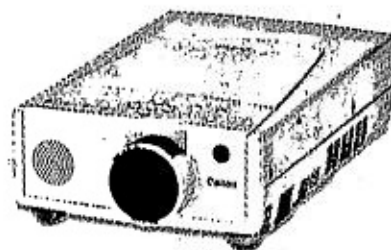
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DISCLOSURES

CENTRAL Azucarera de la Carlota will increase its authorized capital stock from P400 million to P2 billion with a par value of P1 per share. The company will also hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 21 with record date set on Oct. 15.

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro approved the proposed corporate consolidation of the company with **Central Azucarera de la Carlota, CADP Consultancy Services Inc., CADP Farm Services Inc. and Phoenix Sugar Corp.** Also, the company will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 28 with record date set on Oct. 15.

ELECTED independent directors of **ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.** were Roberto de Ocampo and Alberto Lopez.

ELECTED independent director of **Asian Terminals Inc.** was Genya Iwasaki.

PRIME Gaming Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 25, 11 a.m. at the Acacia Function Room of Manila Mandarin Hotel, Makati City. Only stockholders as of Sept. 25 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

TANDUAY Holdings Inc. disclosed the resignation of Ma. Cecilia Pesayco and Juanita Tan Lee as directors of the company but the two retain their current positions as corporate secretary and assistant corporate secretary, respectively. Elected to fill the vacancy in the board were Peter Ong and William Chingco.

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 17, 10 a.m. at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Stockholders as of Oct. 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

Crossed lines

WHILE Malacañang was being distracted by the Edsa II, Edsa III, and Abu Sayyaf turmoils, the bureaucrats at the Department of Transportation and Communications and their favored suppliers had been quietly continuing with the controversial *Telepono sa Barangay* program.

As late as August, the DOTC was still availing itself of foreign loan draw-downs and approving the purchase of imported telecom equipment despite the absence of Malacañang authority to enter into such contracts, according to DOTC documents obtained by *Cocktales*.

The three-phase *Telepono sa Barangay* costs P8.9 billion, P611 million of which is being funded by the government and the overwhelming balance by the Export Development of Canada and Credit Commercial de France.

Despite the noises made by the Erap administration about the project being overpriced and overtaken by cheaper satellite telephone technology and call rates, the DOTC under holdover

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin



Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad still pursued the program.

Trinidad, in a July 23, 2001 report to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, said that 84 percent of equipment supplied by Lucent Technologies and Rohn Products had already been delivered under phase 2 of the telephony project.

Phase 2 plans to build "brick and mortar" public telephone calling stations in every barangay in Kalinga, Apayao, Benguet, Abra, Mountain Province, and Ifugao. The calling stations would each be provided with relay towers, in addition to individual radio telephony equipment and antenna.

What Trinidad apparently wants is for Malacañang to provide, post facto, authorization for DOTC to enter into contracts with the different foreign suppliers. Likewise, the DOTC wants the lapsed loan agreements to be extended to enable the Philippine government to draw down the balance of the French and the Canadian loans.

These foreign loans, in turn, would be used to pay for French and Canadian telephony equipment already delivered.

For instance, 84 percent of the equipment for phase 2, covering the Cordillera provinces, had already been delivered at the time of the Trinidad memo, written at the same time the loan agreement with the French agency lapsed.

Phase 1 and 1-A of the project, both funded by Canada with the equipment sourced from SR Telecom of Quebec, covers Quezon, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

The loan agreement for phase 1 lapsed last month, with phase 1-A expiring in November 2002.

The foreign loan component, incidentally, is using above-market peso-dollar exchange rate for repayment. As of August, the DOTC was using a \$1-P53.77 exchange rate, when the peso never even breached the P52-\$1 benchmark in that period.

Three-in-one

MANILA Times owner Dante Ang was taken in as a public relations consultant by the Philippine Stock Exchange right after Edsa II but the PSE could not use his services in their fight against Metro Pacific over the land donation issue.

Why? The brokers found out that Ang also counts Metro Pacific/PLDT among his clients.

Thanks to his GMA connection, the still expanding Ang—he has lately taken in Piatco as

client—is now Bubby Dacer, Babes Romualdez, and JimPol rolled into one. As Erap would say, *weather-weather lang yan*.

Heard through the grapevine

A PETITION to impeach Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancanco is making the rounds of the House of Representatives.

Prepared by the Bernas Law Offices, the petition cites Tancanco's frequent absences—25 out of 71 en banc sessions, or more than one-third of the Comelec meetings from Jan. 1 to Aug. 10, 2001, could not be held for lack of quorum because of her absence—as one of the grounds for impeachment.

(*Cocktales* may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Housing bonds launched today

By ELENA R. TORRIJOS

STATE-OWNED Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-Ibig is launching today P2 billion worth of five-year bonds in order to raise funds for its housing programs.

A term sheet of the offering showed that the Home Guaranty Corp. have agreed to provide a cash guaranty covering the principal amount of P2 billion at bond face value plus the bonds' fixed interest rate of 8 percent a year payable semi-annually. The guaranty will be enforced in case Pag-Ibig fails to come up with sufficient funds to cover the bond payments.

Development Bank of the Philippines will act as facility agent for the registration, servicing and redemption of the Pag-Ibig housing bonds.

The bonds are eligible as capital and reserve investment of insurance companies, acceptable collateral for developer's loan from the home mortgage fund and acceptable deposit in lieu of a surety bond for collecting agents of Pag-Ibig.

Moreover, bondholders are entitled to participate in a semi-annual raffle draw of house-and-lot packages. The bondholders will be assigned one raffle number for every bond with a denomination of P5,000 held.

Individual bondholders or investors are also entitled to avail themselves of a multi-purpose loan and/or housing loan from Pag-Ibig subject to the fund's lending guidelines.

According to the term sheet, based on a five-year projection provided by HDMF, its cash flow can support its debt service requirement for its existing debts as well as the interest payment on the proposed bond issue.

For this year, Pag-Ibig projects an annual cash inflow of P59.98 billion, of which 51 percent of P30.4 bil-

lion will come from contributions of members and repayment of loans.

The Pag-Ibig housing bond offering was approved by the finance department, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The bonds will be issued in the following

denominations: P5,000, P10,000, P50,000, P100,000, P500,000 and P1 million.

DBP branches within the vicinity of HDMF branches shall be authorized to accept applications and payments for the housing bonds. Prospective investors will be required to maintain

with the branch concerned a savings or ATM account to

which interest due on the bonds shall be credited.

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Car sales down 12%

THE LOCAL automotive industry remained on the southbound lane as the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States further dampened consumer demand especially for big-ticket items.

Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. yesterday reported that sales plunged 12 percent to 56,734 units in the first nine months this year from 64,504 units in the same period last year.

The passenger car was at ground zero of the steep sales slump as turnover plunged 23.1 percent to 17,908 units in the first three quarters this year from 23,284 units a year ago.

The commercial vehicle segment registered moderate loss as sales tumbled 5.8 percent to 38,835 units in the first nine months this year from 41,220 last year.

Prior to the New York and Washington attacks, assemblers were expecting better sales in

the fourth quarter this year after clearing out their backyards of old stocks and launching new models to perk up demand.

With no recovery in sight, assemblers are expected to trim down their production as their inventory levels swell due to weak demand.

The recent strike at Nissan Motor Philippines Inc., which has kept its Laguna factory closed since last week, has further clouded the industry's prospects. Nissan ranked third in the passenger car segment with 2,765 units sold in the first nine months this year behind Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (5,892 units) and Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (3,978 units).

Overall, Toyota remained ahead of the pack with total sales of 14,372 units, ahead of Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (12,534 units), Honda (7,167 units), Isuzu Philippines Corp. (7,128 units) and Nissan group (6,355 units).



WORK CONTINUES AT NAIA-III

Workers constructing the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal III are too busy to notice the controversies involving Philippine International Air Terminal Co., the project contractor. They know they have not much time left for the project will have to be completed and ready for operations by next year.

ROGER MARGALLO

Business asks gov't to defer wage hike

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.
AND TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE PHILIPPINE Chamber of Commerce and Industry has asked the Macapagal administration to defer discussions on the planned wage hike until January next year to allow businessmen to assess the viability of their operations.

PCCI president Miguel Varela said businessmen wanted to first de-

termine whether the domestic economy was resilient enough to carry the market through the expected slump in the country's major markets—the US and Japan.

"We want to resume discussions on the wage increase only if our sales in Christmas will turn out positive," Varela said.

He said the group was amenable to the wage hike before to help the workers meet the rising cost of goods. However, he said, "we sim-

ply cannot afford it at present."

PCCI vice president Sergio Ortiz-Luis said that the key word among businessmen now was survival and a wage hike this time would only drive more companies out of business.

Labor is demanding a wage hike of between P77 and P125 a day but PCCI was willing to support an adjustment of only P25, which is being pushed by the tripartite wage board.

With the outlook for the overseas market turning gloomier, Ortiz-Luis said exports could fall by as much as 15 percent this year and this could have a huge impact on the country's economy considering that exports contribute more than a third of the country's yearly earnings.

Shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, Ortiz-Luis said sales of the electronics industry (which accounts for more than half of total exports) dropped by 40 percent from the level in the same period last year.

In the PCCI's annual Philippine Business Conference slated Nov. 14 to 16, Ortiz-Luis said speakers were urged to give pointers on how businesses could survive these harsh business conditions. With the start of the US-led attack on terrorists worldwide, Ortiz-Luis said it was hard to determine the impact on the Philippines and its markets of the recent US-led attacks on the terrorists.

In a related development, business groups and individual compa-

nies in Central Luzon have expressed objection to the proposed P69.50 increase in the daily wage of workers in the region.

The Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines noted the "wrong timing" in the proposal of the Labor Solidarity Movement for a P69.50 increase.

It said the electronics industry was already suffering from the impact of the global recession and the worldwide electronics market downturn. Certain electronics companies have closed shop while the others have slowed down operations.

"Enforcing any wage hike will probably be the last nail in our coffin," Ernie Santiago, SEIPI executive director, said.

The 17-year-old SEIPI represents 162 companies, 66 of which are foreign-owned. The electronics industry employs 315,000 workers.

Citing a 40-percent drop in the industry's growth rate last June, SEIPI urged the regional tripartite wages and productivity board to consider deferring wage increase by next year.

Santiago warned that a wage increase amid the slump could "lead to total industry shutdown, massive layoffs and a greater loss of investors' confidence."

"We will lose our business to other countries and further reduce jobs available to our people," he added.

However, Santiago said SEIPI

was supporting "creative solutions" that were beyond minimum wage adjustments such as tax exemptions or reduced taxes, increased efficiency in the delivery of basic utilities and improved educational and health care services.

The board, holding its first of two deliberations on Monday, was met by protest actions from 100 union leaders belonging to the Manggagawa para sa Kalayaan ng Bayan (Makabayan).

Joel Morante, Makabayan secretary general, told reporters that even before Monday's deliberation, the board was already opting for a P25 wage increase.

Makabayan proposed a P525 daily living wage based on the National Economic and Development Authority's figures on daily cost of living.

It proposed a combination of P125 across-the-board increase as well as the packages of tax exemptions and food, social and housing subsidies from government.

Ana Dione, regional director of the Department of Labor and Employment and chair of the regional wage board, acknowledged that the board was not only attacked by opposition from workers but also from business groups.

For one, the Subic Bay Development and Management Center Inc., which administers the Subic Bay Industrial Park inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales, has

called the proposed increase "drastic" and "not reasonable."

The Export Processing Zone Chamber of Exporters and Manufacturers Inc. urged the board to deny the proposed increase.

Romulo Santos, EPZCEM secretary general, said the export prices of garments by the dozen have declined from \$18 to \$8 even while manufacturing costs were increasing.

The Clark Investors and Locators Association said LSM's petition should "not be given due course" because most of the business establishments at the Clark Special Economic Zone are "operating marginally."

"Most of the companies have already cut costs to the bone to avoid retrenchment. At present they could not find any other means that will allow them to absorb additional labor costs," the CILA said in a statement to the board.

The Winnie's Garment Corp. based in Olongapo City and the Nueva Ecija's Doctors' Hospital in Cabanatuan City, said in separate appeals that wage increases would reduce the viability of their operations.

Dione said the board's deliberations are seriously considering the many aspects and potential effects of wage hikes to both business and labor sectors but stressed it was really up to Congress to work for an across-the-board increase.

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Withdrawal of Pasudeco sugar stocks questioned

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Three supervisors of the sugar mill Basecom Inc., the company that runs Pampanga Sugar Development Corp. (Pasudeco), called it a "scam" while All Asian Countertrade Inc. (AACI) labeled it a "blackmail."

Basecom mill owners said it was a baseless scandal and leaders of sugar cooperatives in Pampanga described it as a controversy that only the Sugar Regulatory Authority could settle.

The conflict revolves around the alleged illegal withdrawal of some P52 million worth of raw sugar and molasses from Pasudeco, Pampanga's oldest running sugar mill. It also involves the issue of whether sugar farmers are deprived of their 65-percent share in the said stocks.

Basecom operations manager Pacifico Santiago Jr. claimed that 44,486 bags of sugar and 832,875 gallons of molasses were pulled out by ACCI, one of the country's biggest sugar traders, "without the corresponding quedans (certificates) and delivery orders."

Santiago said the sugar and molasses were stored in the warehouses of Pasudeco, which Basecom has been operating since 1998.

The stocks were allegedly withdrawn on Feb. 4 to 27 in 1999; Feb. 2 to March 16 in 2000; Jan. 29 to Feb. 17 in 2001, and May 11 to July 20 in 2001.

The molasses were pulled out on March 16 to June 22 in 1999; Jan. 3 to March 23 in 2000; Jan. 11 to Feb. 20 and July 20 this year.

The goods in question were taken from the stocks that remained in the warehouses at the end of the milling season. Santiago claimed these were not declared to the planters and the SRA.

Santiago said he, resident manager Arthur Reyes and consultant Bert Reyes noticed the irregularity because the orders for the alleged illegal withdrawals "directly came" from Basecom and AACI officials.

Jose Muñoz, Basecom general manager, denied Santiago's allegations and defended AACI, the biggest buyer of the mill's share in the production.

The firm bought 194,123 bags of sugar produced and stored in the warehouses during crop year 2000-2001, documents provided by Muñoz showed. The planters' share reached 360,539 bags.

"No sugar or molasses were illegally withdrawn. Everything that the AACI withdrew was properly documented," Muñoz said.

Santiago, Arthur Reyes and Bert Reyes said they made the disclosure to "clear their names," after they were suspected by Basecom owners and farmers of "stealing the sugar."

"There was conspiracy between the two companies. AACI used Basecom as a dummy. The three of us were made the sacrificial lambs," Santiago told reporters here.

He accused AACI of using fake or temporary release orders for both the sugar and the molasses. In SRA's policy, he said the release orders were only given when traders have acquired the quedans held by the planters for their shares.

In these cases, he stressed that no quedans were obtained because the planters were not made aware of the 5-percent stock left in the warehouses.

Santiago said Basecom officials also used a different set of forms for AACI's transactions.

Muñoz, while stressing that the forms were authentic, noted that Santiago's documents proved that the trading firm held official transactions with the milling company.

"Why would they leave a trail of documents when everything was done aboveboard?" he asked.

Santiago claimed that several security guards who saw AACI's hauling activities within the compound were dismissed supposedly to cover up the irregularities.

In their case, Santiago said he was retained but was not given any assignment. The same was true with Arthur and Bert Reyes, he added.

PLDT selling 20% stake in Smart

(From page B1)

notes to help pay off its maturities.

However, it made another announcement on Sept. 12 for the deferment of the bond float because of the terror attacks on the United States.

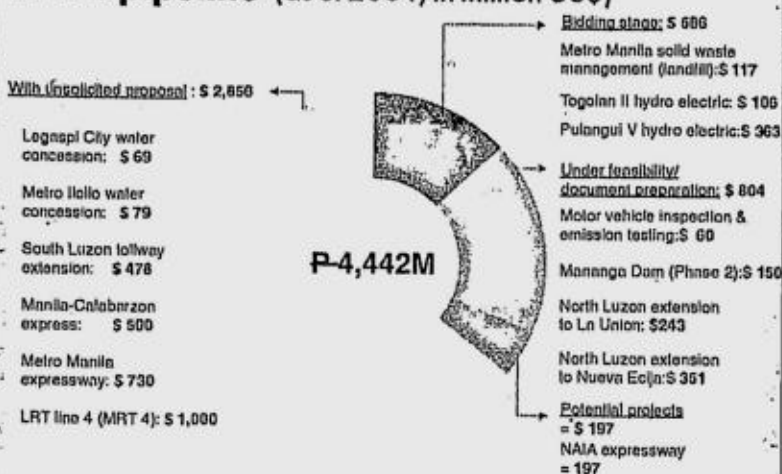
In a press statement, PLDT said it "will closely evaluate the restoration of normal mar-

ket operations as events unfold." Until then, it said the notes issuance would be put on hold.

Analysts said the bond float could push through before year's end depending on the global peace and order situation, but PLDT could still push it back up to next year depending on investor confidence and market performance.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Build-operate-transfer projects
in the pipeline (as of 2001, in million US\$)

Source: Department of Budget & Management's "Proposed 2002 budget"

SOME \$4.44 billion worth of build-operate-transfer projects are in the pipeline. The biggest project in the line-up is the Department of Transportation and Communication's \$1-B Light Rail Transit Line.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Ford sees hefty
increases in
pickup sales

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

FORD Motor Co. Philippines Inc. is bullish on posting robust sales of its Ranger pickups despite forecast of more rough roads for the entire automotive industry next year.

During yesterday's press launch of the 2002 Ranger, Ford Philippines vice president Dave Gutman said sales were expected to jump 42 percent to 2,000 units next year from 1,400 this year. Even if the entire industry ends up flat in 2002, Gutman said Ranger sales should still grow by at least 14 percent to 1,600 units.

"We expect the commercial vehicle segment to lead the industry out of its trough," Gutman said. Based on its forecast, Gutman said Ford was likely to jack up its share of the market from 15 percent to 20 percent by next year and pose a serious threat to industry leaders Isuzu Philippine Corp. and Nissan Motor Philippines Corp.

Since it launched the Ranger in 1999, Ford has been able to steadily gain following among local buyers through aggressive marketing anchored on the company's reputation as the world's biggest pickup and truck maker.

The Ranger's entry, however, was met with controversy when Francisco Motors Corp. complained that it violated its exclusive contract to distribute the Mazda B-series pickups (which shares the same platform as the Ranger).

Ford is stepping up its campaign to corner a bigger chunk of the market by offering more affordable financing schemes and targeting top 1,000 corporations for their vehicle requirements. Gutman said roughly 40 percent of their turnover were fleet sales.

The sales push for Ranger pickups is expected to get a strong boost with the implementation of the \$500-million production sharing scheme between Ford Motor Co.'s subsidiaries in the Philippines and Thailand under the Asean Industrial Cooperation agreement.

Ford, through Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc., is planning to assemble the Escape and Tribute sport utility vehicles and the Laser/Lynx/Mazda 323 sedans at its Sta. Rosa plant for export to Thailand.

In turn, Ford's Thailand subsidiary, Auto Alliance Co. Ltd. (where Ford has a 48 percent interest and Mazda Motors of Japan has 45 percent) would ship Ranger pickup trucks to the Philippines. Ford will only pay between zero and 5 percent on its products compared to the prevailing CBU duties of 20 percent and 15 percent in the Philippines and Thailand, respectively, which would give the American car giant more leeway in pricing its products to gain more market share.

GOINGS-ON

BCDA on corporate governance

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and its subsidiaries drafted a code of ethics for its board of directors in a workshop on corporate governance held in the Clark Economic Zone in Pampanga recently.

The workshop focused on the principle of corporate governance. Former Finance Secretary and Institute of Corporate Directors president/CEO Jesus P. Estanislao, the main speaker during the workshop, defined corporate governance as the use of power, authority and resources in a corporation for the good of the firm.

The other speakers were former Bureau of Customs Commissioner Tomas Apacible, Cesar Saldana and lawyer Lito Fider.

The BCDA and its subsidiaries—Clark Development Corp. and John Hay-Poro Point Development Corp.—are the first among government-owned and controlled corporations in the country to draft a code of ethics for its board of directors. The code is based on the principles of utmost responsibility, accountability, integrity and cooperation.

SIA's service reduction

SINGAPORE Airlines said it would reduce its flight services effective end-October due to the prevailing poor economic condition and a decline in forward bookings.

The flight service reduction will cover the Singapore-Surabaya route, from 12 flights a week to 10; Singapore-Kaohsiung, from 10 flights to nine; Singapore-Hong Kong, from seven flights to six; Singapore-Amsterdam-New York (Neward), from four flights per week to three. The airline said it would continue operating its daily service to New York (JFK International) via Frankfurt.

Ilonggo expo

WESTERN Visayas' major products and trade show, "Expo 6" (formerly known as Ilonggo Festival), opens today until Oct. 14 at the Mega Trade Hall of SM Mega Mall.

"Expo 6" features export-quality products, tourism destinations and a road show on the investments and trade opportunities in Western Visayas.

Products for exhibit and sale are house wares, toys, decors, gifts, food and furniture from the provinces of Iloilo, Aklan, Capiz, Guimaras, Antique and Negros Occidental.

Judy Araneta-Roxas, a businesswoman and mother of Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II, will open the exhibit. Also expected to attend are provincial and municipal chief executives led by Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas.

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RN54437

Bayantel seeks write-off of 25% of unsecured debts

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

BAYAN Telecommunications Inc., a unit of Benpres Holdings Corp., asked its unsecured creditors on Monday to write off a quarter of its debts and interest charges for 18 months beginning Jan. 19 this year.

A Bayantel official, who asked that he not be named, said nearly half, or \$226 million, of Bayantel's \$477 million worth of debts were unsecured.

On Monday, Bayantel's financial advisor, Bank of America, presented a proposal to Bayantel's creditors to restructure the telecommunication firm's debts.

"The unsecured portion included the \$200-million bond, with a maturity of seven years, issued by Bayantel in 1999," the company source said.

In January, Bayantel missed a coupon payment of \$13.5 million on the 2006 bonds. Bayantel also proposed a 15-year repay-

ment of its loans, including a five-year grace period on principal payments.

"Proposed interest rates are three-month London Interbank Offered Rate (Libor) plus one percent for US dollar-denominated debts and 91-day treasury bill rate plus one percent for peso-denominated debts," the company statement said.

"Bayantel management led by chief consultant Tunde Fafunka and chief finance officer Gary Olivar told creditors that the restructure terms are tailored closely to the ability of Bayantel to service debt," the company statement said.

"If the terms are accepted, Bayantel will not require new funds until 2007 and can begin servicing debt with equal quarterly amortization payments thereafter," it said.

The Benpres source said creditors of Bayantel had yet to approve the proposal. Bayantel has 34 local and foreign creditors. Bayantel's creditor banks include Equi-

table PCI Bank Inc., Land Bank of the Philippines, Bank of the Philippine Islands, United Coconut Planters Bank, Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank and the Export Development Corp. of Canada.

Bayantel's debt restructuring proposal was based on a business plan that included key findings of Arthur D. Little, the independent auditor chosen by Bayantel's creditors.

According to ADL's findings, Bayantel's operating plans, operating expenditures and capital expenditures were reasonable and that the company had a "quality network from a technical perspective."

Bayantel consultant KPMG Laya Mananghaya also reviewed the business plan.

In an earlier interview, Olivar, chief finance officer, said Bayantel appreciated the support that its creditors were extending.

He admitted that some of their debts were already past due, "but we have an informal standstill agreement with our creditors."

BIR, BOC revenue measures to raise P17B

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE MACAPAGAL administration has given up hopes that the proposed increase in beer and cigarette taxes and the shift from the income tax system to the gross modified tax system would be acted upon by Congress this year.

These measures were expected to raise at least P10 billion in additional revenues for the government by the second semester next year if approved and implemented by early next year.

However, these were not among the priority legislative measures of Congress dimming the prospects that they would be approved by early next year.

With these options now out of the picture, the government economic team has lined up administrative measures that will raise for the government about P17 billion in additional earning, a member of the Development Budget Coordinating Committee said. These measures will be undertaken by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

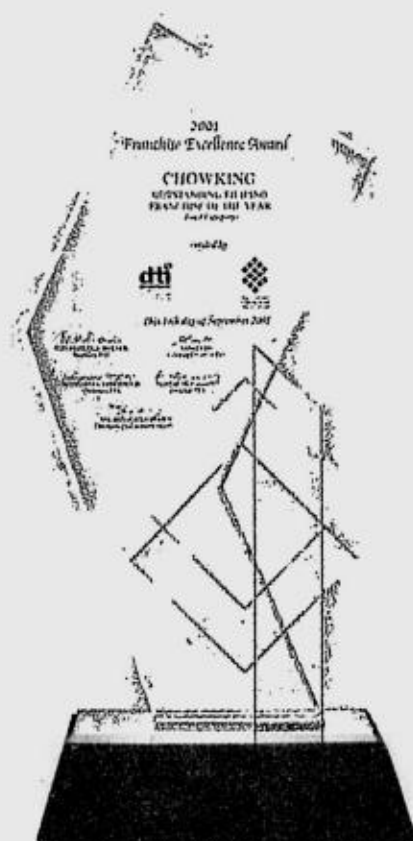
Out of the P17 billion, the BIR is expected to account for at least P11 billion broken down as follows: P3.5 billion from intensified audit; P2.5 billion from the metering of the documentary stamp tax; P700 million from the expansion of the withholding tax system, and P4.8 billion from other measures such as a redefinition of automobiles and redefinition of gross income as applied to special economic zones locators.

The BOC is expected to generate P5.5 billion which will come from forfeiture of bonds (P1.5 billion), public auction of forfeited cargoes (P3 billion), additional billings after liquidation of import entries and audit (P800 million), and penalties to be imposed on erring brokers, banks and importers (P200 million).

The DBCC said the revenue targets of the BIR and the BOC for next year were adjusted after the economic team decided to scale down the growth targets next year to 4 to 4.5 percent for the gross domestic product and to 4.1 to 4.6 percent for the gross national product.

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Court revives Xerox patent case vs Palm

STAMFORD, Connecticut—A federal court has reinstated a lawsuit by Xerox Corp. charging that Palm Inc. infringed its patent in the development of the handwriting recognition system for the Palm handheld computer.

The US Court of Appeals in Washington, DC on Friday reversed a lower court dismissal of the case, representatives of both companies said Monday. The litigation now returns to federal court in Rochester, NY, where it has been dismissed.

"It's a huge victory for Xerox," said Bill McKee, a company spokesperson. "The US Court of Appeals agrees there is enough evidence to proceed in a litigation that there is a patent

infringement."

The lawsuit alleges that Palm's Graffiti handwriting recognition software infringes a Xerox US patent relating to computerized interpretation of handwriting. In June 2000, the district court issued an order dismissing Xerox's claims.

Palm Inc., based in Santa Clara, Calif., confirmed the court reversed the lower court dismissal but said the court also rejected a motion for summary judgment brought by Xerox. Xerox said the court did not rule on the summary judgment request.

Federal courts were closed Monday for the Columbus Day holiday. **AP**

Japan ready to adopt flexible policy, says economy minister

TOKYO—Japan is ready to adopt a flexible economic and fiscal policy as it monitors the impact of the US-led air strikes on Afghanistan, a key economy minister indicated Tuesday.

"I strongly feel we have to keep crisis management in mind in terms of economic policy," said Heizo Takenaka, state minister in charge of economic and fiscal policy.

Takenaka said he hoped to discuss ways to cope with economic developments after the US bombings at the government's Council for Economic and Fiscal Policy headed by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

He declined to elaborate what

the possible measures would be.

Recent pledges of financial aid to those affected by the anti-terror drive in Afghanistan would force Koizumi to reverse one of his main pledges in a reform drive to resuscitate the world's No. 2 economy after a decade-long slump, a news report said.

Medical and refugee assistance alone would cost Japan several hundreds of billions of yen, forcing Koizumi to exceed a cap on new government bond issues put at 30 trillion yen (\$250 billion) for the year to March 2002, the Mainichi newspaper said, quoting an anonymous government source.

Tokyo will initially keep the ceil-

ing when it compiles a supplementary budget in November by focusing on employment measures, the daily said.

However, it would draw up a second stimulus package taking it over the limit in early January due to expenses incurred by Japanese support for the US operation, it said.

Koizumi has recognized it would be inevitable to go beyond the 30-trillion-yen ceiling as he considered aid to the strikes "a whole different story," the Mainichi quoted the source as saying.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said Tokyo must monitor developments in Central Asia and their impact on the Japanese

economy before deciding on what measures to take.

"We must push ahead with structural reforms, and we should only consider (taking emergency measures) if they contribute to structural reforms," he said.

"(The government has) not decided yet how we should cope with the military action against terrorism economically. It is not something that you should decide in a hurry."

Koizumi has adopted a drastic reform policy that includes the bond cap and a bid to clean up the banking system, crippled by a mountain of bad loans by forcing Japanese banks to reduce non-performing loans to a safe level in three years. **AFP**

Taiwan reeling from soaring unemployment

TAIPEI—Just three weeks into her first job, 22-year-old graduate Huang Chia-yu got a rude shock when her boss at a printing firm fired her—not because of her work, but because of the economy.

"I got a job soon after graduation, but after working for only three weeks, my boss suddenly told me to find a new job as he was forced to cut staff," said Huang.

"I was so frustrated because I thought it was an issue far away from me, but not now."

She is unlikely to be alone. A global slowdown that may turn into recession, pressure to reform old industries, growing competition from neighboring China and the mixed blessings of World Trade Organization membership all threaten to swell Taiwan's jobless ranks.

"A rising jobless rate is an irresistible trend," said Hermes Yang, an economist at Chung Hsing Securities. "After Taiwan's WTO entry, we are bound to see an even higher jobless rate as companies merge to combat fierce competition."

In August, Taiwan had some 512,000 unemployed, driving the jobless rate to a record 5.17 percent. It was the fourth straight month at above 5 percent.

Those figures may not seem high for a European welfare state, but they have been shocking to the populace of an Asian "tiger economy" that has seen joblessness fluctuate from 1.5 percent to 3 percent over the period from the late 1970s to 2000.

But Yang says the days of a below 3-percent unemployment are over and Taiwan may have to brace for a jobless rate of more than 5 percent from now as the island transforms itself from a labor-intensive economy into a service-oriented one.

To escape the ordeal of job-hunting, Huang said at least 15 of her 60 classmates had opted for further studies after graduation.

But for other middle-aged and older unemployed workers with families, there is no choice but to seek other jobs.

"I'm certainly under some pressure to get a new job, but with such a bad economy, it is really difficult. It all depends on luck and relationships," said a 40-something employee at the 54-year-old Independent Evening News, which printed its last issue on Oct. 2, throwing some 300 people out of work.

"I still can't believe it's all gone, but I don't ask much from the company, I just want my salary back," he said. His wife also worked at the paper.

With such bleak prospects, psychiatrists warn that joblessness could lead to serious social problems like suicide and higher crime rates.

"Once they can't find new jobs, they would get anxious, upset and lose confidence in the future. Some of them would adapt themselves to the environment, but some could take extreme measures," said Wu Tontin, an attending physician at Cathay General Hospital's psychiatry department. **Reuters**

Thailand clears \$536M in bonds

BANGKOK—Thailand's Cabinet on Tuesday approved a plan for the government to guarantee about 24 billion baht (\$536.2 million) worth of new state enterprise bonds during the 2001/2002 (October-September) fiscal year.

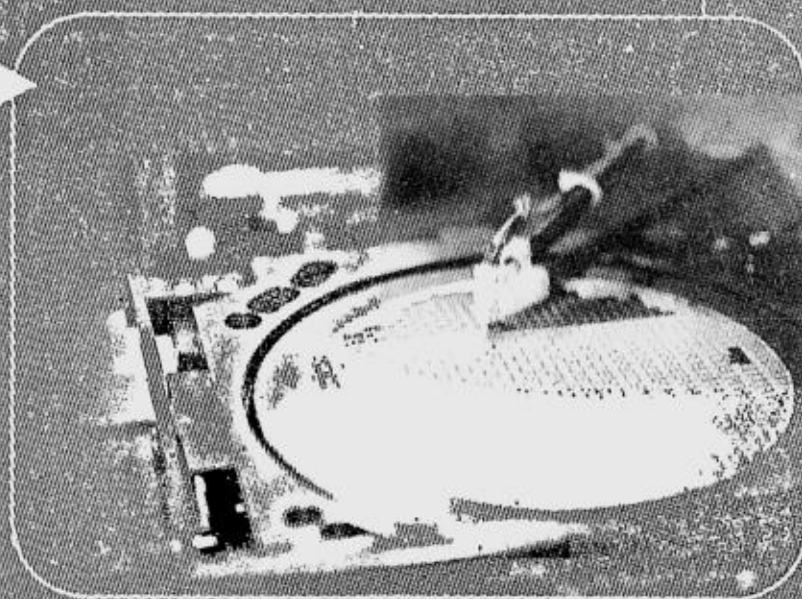
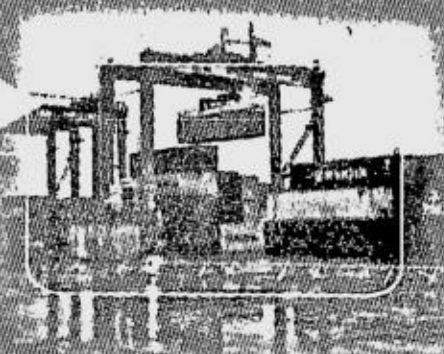
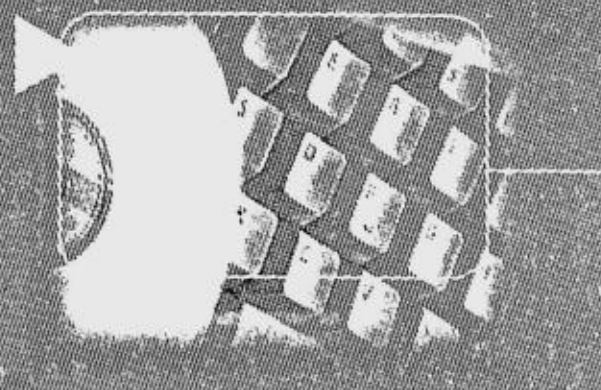
Sommai Phasi, deputy permanent secretary for finance, told reporters the bonds would be part of some 40 billion baht worth of bonds expected to be issued by state enterprises during the fiscal year to refinance existing debts.

He gave no details of the timing of the planned bond issues.

Sommai said the approved bonds included 13.4 billion baht worth of debt papers to be issued by the Expressway and Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand, 3.7 billion baht by the National Housing Authority, 3.5 billion baht by the Rapid Transit Authority of Thailand, 2 billion baht by the Provincial Electricity Authority, and 1.6 billion baht by the Metropolitan Waterworks Authority.

Other state enterprise bonds approved earlier by the cabinet for the current year include those from the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand. **Reuters**

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CASUALTY OF TERRORISM

Airline losses may blow out to \$12B, says Iata

HONG KONG—The losses of international and US domestic airlines will skyrocket to as much as \$12 billion this year following last month's terrorist attacks in the United States, the International Air Transport Association said Tuesday.

The Iata said it expected the losses of international carriers alone to rise to \$7 billion from its earlier estimate of \$2.5 billion before the Sept. 11 attacks in which hijacked aircraft smashed into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

"Before Sept. 11, I was going to tell you of a forecast loss this year of \$2.5 billion on the international scheduled services of Iata airlines worldwide," Iata director general and chief executive Pierre Jeannot said during a news conference.

"One scenario we are looking at is a net loss of \$7 billion on those services if traffic and capacity are both cut in September to December by 15 percent."

This would amount to a reduction in international traffic of nearly 5 percent for the year, he said.

"To that loss you would have to add, to get a fuller world picture, the \$3-billion to \$5-billion losses of US carriers on their domestic services."

Jeannot said it would take the global aviation industry a year to recover from the crisis stemming from the terrorist attacks.

He drew a parallel with the Gulf War in 1991, when traffic initially fell by 30 to 35 percent and was down 15 percent in following months.

The Iata, which represents around 275 airlines or virtually all of the world's major airlines, called for a range of measures to limit carriers from collapse and to nurse the industry back to health.

These included liberalizing laws covering airline ownership and takeovers, improving security systems and communications between authorities and reducing insurance premiums. **AFP**

ANZ chief exec quits

AUCKLAND—Embattled Air New Zealand said Tuesday that its chief executive, Gary Toomey, would quit the airline by "mutual agreement."

"He has encountered a set of problems that were not of his making and has worked relentlessly to find answers to them," Air New Zealand chair Jim Farmer said.

Last year, the airline took full ownership of Australia's Ansett Airlines, which proved to be a deadly loss-maker and was last month put into voluntary management.

Air New Zealand, in common with other airlines, has also suffered since the World Trade Center terrorist attacks in New York.

"We have no criticism to make of him—or the management team he led—for what has happened and wish him well, wherever he goes now," Farmer said.

Toomey, who joined the airline from Qantas late last year, said in his statement he believed the board's decision to place Ansett in voluntary administration meant the future Air New Zealand must set its sights on different

goals from the ones that drew him to the company.

"I think it is appropriate for me to move aside, take a break with my family and consider some of the options open to me."

Farmer announced that newly appointed director Roger France would act as an executive director of the airline until a new chief executive was appointed.

News came out as the market closed with the domestic A shares down 3 cents to 30 cents and the general B shares steady at 30 cents.

Last week, Air New Zealand announced the New Zealand government would inject a total of NZ\$885 million (\$363 million) and would end up with a stake of about 83 percent in the airline it privatized 12 years ago.

On Monday, the airline said it would cut flight schedules in November by 10.5 percent, mostly affecting international routes.

It also unveiled plans to cut its workforce by up to 8 percent, a total of 800 jobs. **AFP**



A QANTAS passenger plane taxis along the tarmac at Sydney airport with the skyline behind it Oct. 4, 2001 file photo. Qantas executives are locked in urgent talks with trade union representatives in an attempt to reach an agreement on labor cost-savings in an industry reeling from the effects of last month's terrorist strikes in the United States. **AFP**

Qantas cuts jobs as air crisis bites

SYDNEY—The crisis gripping the international aviation industry has forced Australia's biggest airline, Qantas, to foreshadow further job losses and a reduction in international services.

Qantas executives were locked in urgent talks with trade union representatives Tuesday in an attempt to reach an agreement on labor cost-savings in an industry reeling from the effects of last month's terrorist strikes in the United States.

In a memo to his staff, Qantas chief executive Geoff Dixon said the airline anticipated demand for flights would remain subdued for at least six months and it would, therefore, drop some of its international services.

The move follows the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks using hijacked aircraft on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington, which left 5,700 people dead or missing.

"Qantas is also under extreme pressure, and the impact on us is substantial," Dixon's memo to staff said.

"While the impact is not yet as severe for Qantas as for other overseas carriers, it is prudent we act now. We are seeing a downturn in our international operations and no increase in forecast demand for the next six months."

"We may have to extend these measures if the current circumstances deteriorate further."

Dixon said the global aviation industry suffered acutely in the aftermath of the attacks, with Qantas' cost-saving strategy to include the trimming of its senior management ranks by 10 percent.

"Almost every airline in the world now finds itself in severe financial difficulties," Dixon's memo said.

"Loads have suffered a severe downturn whilst costs are soaring, particularly for insurance and security." **AFP**

Indonesia lowers growth forecasts for 2002

JAKARTA—The Indonesian government has reduced its growth forecast and other economic targets for next year in an apparent response to an expected downturn after the terrorist attacks in the United States.

Finance Minister Budiono told a parliamentary hearing on the 2002 budget he was proposing two revised scenarios, the Kompas daily reported on Tuesday.

Budiono, speaking late Monday, said the revisions would make the budget targets more achievable by adjusting the world oil price and the rupiah exchange rate to a more realistic

level.

The first revision included a reduction in the gross domestic product growth forecast to 4 percent from the 5-percent forecast when the draft budget was presented last month.

It assumed a world oil price of \$21 per barrel, \$1 less than previously estimated.

The revision also assumed an average rupiah exchange rate of 9,000 per dollar compared to the 8,500 in the draft presented by President Megawati Sukarnoputri on Sept. 7.

Annual inflation is set at 9 percent instead of 8 percent.

The second scenario contained the same figures as the first one with the exception of oil prices, which were maintained at the current assumption of \$22 per barrel, he said.

Budiono said the impact of the first scenario would be a rise in state income by 3.1 trillion rupiah (\$310 million) to 292.5 trillion rupiah.

Spending would rise by 5.9 trillion rupiah to 338.4 trillion rupiah, resulting in a deficit equivalent to 2.7 percent of GDP compared to 2.5 percent in the current draft budget.

The second scenario would raise income by 7.5 trillion rupiah and

spending by 10.6 trillion rupiah, also resulting in a deficit of 2.7 percent of GDP.

Parliament will continue to debate the draft budget because it was presented in September and any revision will have to be approved by a plenary session on Oct. 30.

The rupiah was at 10,210/10,240 in early trading Tuesday after strengthening to the 8,000-9,000 level after the change of government on July 23. Recent falls have been linked to fears of violence by radical Islamic groups amid US attacks on Afghanistan. **AFP**

S&P affirms China's stable long-term rating

SINGAPORE—Standard & Poor's on Tuesday affirmed its "BBB" long-term foreign currency issuer credit and senior unsecured debt ratings and its "A-3" short-term foreign currency issuer credit rating on China.

The outlook is stable. China's commitment to reform was proven during the Asian financial crisis and during periods of strained political relations with trading partners.

Standard & Poor's expects economic liberalization to continue in the coming years despite a global downturn in growth. Ongoing steps to build new social welfare, legal and regulatory systems should strengthen China's weak institutions.

Nevertheless, the government's debt burden—estimated to exceed 70 percent of gross domestic product, including the expected cost of banking sector losses—might increase over the medium term.

The ratings and outlook on China incorporate the expectation that China's fiscal deficit and public sector debt burden will rise over the medium term to reflect accurately the legacy of policy lending through the banking system.

The momentum behind financial and corporate restructuring is likely to persist during the transition to a new leadership in the coming years, even if GDP growth converges with global trends.

Steps to staunch the flow of policy lending by banks, to stabilize the rapid growth of domestic credit and to modernize the tax system would strengthen public finances.

Such steps, in combination with measures to sustain economic growth while lowering the level of fiscal stimulus, could improve China's creditworthiness over time.

Conversely, a prolonged or disruptive leadership transition, or potential social unrest, could delay the implementation of reform measures, exacerbate the weakness in public finances and reduce China's credit standing.

China's ratings are supported by: • Its strong external position, based on a moderate level of debt and debt service burden.

Gross external debt is projected to decline to about 55 percent of current account earnings this year, and total debt service, including short-term debt, consume less than 17 percent of current account earnings.

High foreign exchange reserves, more than 700 percent of short-term debt, and a competitive export sector benefiting from record inflows of foreign direct investment in recent years should sustain external liquidity, despite weakening exports.

• Its impressive commitment to economic reform, which is rapidly building the foundations of a market-oriented economy. **Reuters**

German unemployment rate down to 9%

NUREMBERG, Germany—Germany's unadjusted jobless rate dropped slightly to 9 percent in September from the previous month, with 3.74 million people out of work, the government said Tuesday.

More people, however, were unemployed than in the same month last year.

The number of people without jobs

was down 45,800 on the August figure, but 58,200 more were out of work than in September 2000, the Federal Labor Office said.

A smaller year-on-year rise in August was the first since April 1998.

In August, the unadjusted jobless rate had remained unchanged at 9.2 percent.

The labor office said an autumn re-

duction in the jobless figures had been "clearly lower" than in previous years.

It blamed slowing economic growth but insisted in a statement that "there is no evidence that the terrorist attacks in the United States had a notable effect on the labor market" in September.

The latest jobless figures again highlighted the disparity between

western Germany and the formerly communist east.

In the west, 2.42 million people were out of work—a jobless rate of 7.2 percent, down from 7.3 percent in August.

In the east, the unemployment rate dipped to 16.9 percent from 17.1 percent, with 1.32 million people out of work. **AP**

BOJ urges caution against future inflation

TOKYO—Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami said on Tuesday that the central bank must be aware of the risk that too much liquidity could cause inflation in the future, despite protracted deflation in Japan at the moment.

"Prices are determined by the exchange rate of liquidity against goods and services. If we continue to increase liquidity, there will inevitably be too much liquidity and inflation at some point," Hayami told the Upper House budget committee.

"It is difficult to say when that would be. But from my experience, with this much liquidity, inflation could flare up once it is triggered by some event. It is the Bank of Japan's responsibility to keep that in mind." The BOJ has kept interest rates

near zero under its so-called quantitative easing policy, in which it floods the money market with liquidity, in a bid to halt a two-year long decline in prices. It holds its next policy meeting on Thursday and Friday. **Reuters**

MAN to restructure its British units

MUNICH, Germany—German truck maker MAN said on Tuesday it would reorganize its British activities in the wake of the scandal at its ERF unit, currently under investigation for financial irregularities.

MAN said in a statement it would maintain its current two-brand strategy in Britain but set up a new combined MAN-ERF unit to oversee the business and tap into possible synergy effects.

The new company would take charge of distribution, logistics, financial services, investment and personnel of the two brands.

It would be headed by Juergen Knorpp, formerly head of MAN Trucks and Bus UK.

The aim of MAN-ERF would be to secure a joint market share of 20 percent in Britain, equivalent to the sale of 10,000 new and 5,000 second-hand trucks per year and turn-

over of some 600 million pounds (\$884 million).

MAN acquired ERF in March 2000 from the Canadian Western Star group.

It subsequently discovered that ERF's assets had been inflated and some of its debts covered up to present a more favorable financial situation.

The unit is unprofitable and "double-digit" millions in cost-savings would probably be necessary to turn it around, MAN said. **AFP**

Judge sacks bid to wind up Tan Chong

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—A family feud over Malaysian auto conglomerate Tan Chong group was thrown out of court Tuesday, the Bernama national news agency reported.

High Court Judge Zainun Ali dismissed a bid by some family members to liquidate the Tan Chong group, ruling that "there is nothing in the petition that demonstrates the circumstances to justify a winding-up under just and equitable ground," Bernama reported.

In June, Tan Chong Motor Holdings Bhd. deputy executive chair Tan Heng Chew and his brothers asked the High

Court to throw out an attempt by their uncle Tan Kim Hor and his sons to split up the family's private company, which controls the motor conglomerate.

In May, Tan Kim Hor and his family had filed a petition in the court seeking to dissolve Tan Chong Consolidated Sdn. Bhd., the private company controlling four listed Tan Chong Group companies.

Tan Chong Consolidated controls about 40 percent of each of the four listed companies—Tan Chong Motor Holdings, APM Automotive Holdings Bhd., Warisan TC Holdings Bhd. and Hong

Kong-listed Tan Chong International Ltd.

About 45 percent of Tan Chong Consolidated is held by members of the Tan Kim Hor family, while the remaining equity is owned by family members of the late Tan Yuet Poh, Tan Kim Hor's brother.

Tan Chong Motor Holdings is the sole distributor and assembler of Nissan-made vehicles in Malaysia, including passenger and light and heavy commercial vehicles, holding a market share of about 4 percent.

It also has auto financing and insurance services, with operations in Brunei, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong and Australia. **AP**

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Soap-free washing machine unveiled by Daewoo

SEOUL—A South Korean firm on Tuesday started selling soap-free washing machines, stepping up the battle to grab what could become a huge international market for the money-saving device.

The \$1,000 washing machine uses no detergent to launder clothes, Daewoo Electronics Co. said in a statement launching its "Midas" machine.

Midas has a water-catalyzing device that "gives water detergent-like qualities," the statement said.

The company said it had obtained a US patent for the new technology and had applied for patents in 60 other countries.

In June, Japan's Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. put a similar machine on the market using electrolysis and ultrasonic waves to launder clothes. *AFP*

Sony buys into games maker

TOKYO—Sony Computer Entertainment Inc., known for its hugely popular PlayStation game consoles, said Tuesday it would pay \$124.2 million to become the second largest shareholder in computer game developer Square Co. Ltd.

"Sony Computer Entertainment and Square agreed today that Sony Computer will take all of Square's third-party placement of new shares," Square said in a statement.

The deal will give Sony Computer an 18.6-percent stake in Square, known for its Final Fantasy game series.

Square will raise 14.9 billion yen (\$124.2 million) by issuing 11.2 million new shares to Sony Computer, a wholly owned unit of consumer electronics giant Sony Corp.

The independent software developer will use the proceeds to write off debts

and finance day-to-day operations.

Square's games titles are almost solely designed for Sony Computer's PlayStation2 game console.

A mobile-phone joint venture between Sony Corp. and Ericsson that was set up this month, meanwhile, said it aimed to be profitable in 2002.

"We are currently drawing up the budget for next year, and we are aiming

to be profitable then," the head of the venture, Katsumi Ihara, told a briefing for reporters.

The joint venture, Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications AB, brought together the two manufacturers' loss-making handset operations in a bid to bolster their position by combining Ericsson's technical expertise with Sony's marketing prowess. *AFP, Reuters*

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F/F w/brk. 4Sale 6M 533-9776 / 633-6426 Prince Plaza 2, Penthouse 2.5M 5312021 0917-3955738 MANDALUYONG Renaissance 3000 3BR rdy 4 ecc 9206694/9251348 Varolus Mandaluyong Townhse • 534-6610 Jojo Varolus Wack-Wack Condo 534-6610 • Jojo PASIG Dona Juana Pasig 3BR Woodside NMLA 916-5177 QUEZON CITY Burgundy Loyola Heights 2BR 5312021 0917-3955738 Nr QCHall P2.1M 9257092 One Burgundy Plaza 2BR 2.8M 5312021 0917-3955738 RUSHI TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792 OTHER AREAS VILLA FELIZA HOMES Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City Initial DP: P 25,000 MANDALUYONG Condo Nr Shaw & Cherry 2BR 2TB New P14T up 531-4971 Milnda PASIG Ortigas Cir 2BR UF 20T 412-1825 • 0917-7914366 SAN JUAN Ghls 1BR P16-20T F/UF 2-3BR P25-35T 723-2391 FOR LEASE 2Sty Bldg. w/Pkg FA150 C6 Nr D'Fort Tagig • 545-5380 350m² Mktl Whse Off 7233697 Visayas Ave., Q.C. 620sqm Commercial 0917-3955738 ROOM & BOARD Proj 4 QC 4218012 LOAN & MORTGAGE 2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169 Doctors Dentist Buss. Salary Real Estate 524-3197 Quick Loan on Ur H&L Car AUV PasaJee Taxi 0917-9236232 • 777-1142 BUSINESS RENTAL 21 Timog 400m² P200T Neg. Office 60m² 15T 373-0587 Centerpoint Ofc Ortigas Cir 140m² @200 412-1825 •Medical Plaza 40m²-75m² •Jollibee Piz o/c 80-150m² •Prestige Twr 60-1200m² 412-1825 • 0917-7914268 Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st Class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs. Tandang Sora QC nr mrkl 400m² P36T/mo 9282497	REAL ESTATE FOR SALE CONDO/TWNHSE/APT Alexandra Condo 3BR Unit Lease/Sale • 0919-4032997 MEMORIAL LOT Hlm Pli 4 lots 9296974 FACTORY/WHSE 4000M Beside SM City Alng Edsa Call 928-1469 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT APARTMENT MAKATI 2BR SAV Mkt 8992148 Chlo MANDALUYONG 2BR 10T; 1BR 8T; Studio 6T Boni No Car New 373-0587 HOUSE VVerde P50-80T SEV 723-2391 RIZAL 3BR 2CR with Garage near Sta Lucia Call 681-3726 CONDO/TWNHSE ALABANG 4 RENT: CONDO Aspen Tower Alabang F/F P45,000.00 • TEL.8071245• MAKATI RUSH SALE!!! BOTTOM PRICE!!! very nice 2bedroom condo unit, 20th Floor LE DOMAINE 104 Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village 127sqm furnished or unfurnished parquet floor 2 car garage in heart of Makati •Call: Martin 09178158325• MANILA Sta Ana Condo 4 Rent Nr Mktl. La Salle 2BR-11T 1BR-8T 563-7395 • 562-7854 Maritess MANDALUYONG Condo Nr Shaw & Cherry 2BR 2TB New P14T up 531-4971 Milnda PASIG Ortigas Cir 2BR UF 20T 412-1825 • 0917-7914366 SAN JUAN Ghls 1BR P16-20T F/UF 2-3BR P25-35T 723-2391 FOR LEASE 2Sty Bldg. w/Pkg FA150 C6 Nr D'Fort Tagig • 545-5380 350m² Mktl Whse Off 7233697 Visayas Ave., Q.C. 620sqm Commercial 0917-3955738 ROOM & BOARD Proj 4 QC 4218012 LOAN & MORTGAGE 2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169 Doctors Dentist Buss. Salary Real Estate 524-3197 Quick Loan on Ur H&L Car AUV PasaJee Taxi 0917-9236232 • 777-1142 BUSINESS RENTAL 21 Timog 400m² P200T Neg. Office 60m² 15T 373-0587 Centerpoint Ofc Ortigas Cir 140m² @200 412-1825 •Medical Plaza 40m²-75m² •Jollibee Piz o/c 80-150m² •Prestige Twr 60-1200m² 412-1825 • 0917-7914268 Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st Class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs. Tandang Sora QC nr mrkl 400m² P36T/mo 9282497	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP FOR SALE CEMENT SILOS, CONCRETE PUMPS, TRANSIT MIXERS, CONCRETE BATCH PLANT GENSETS Call Jho Tel. 723-8408 TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE CARS HONDA 97 Civic LXI 345T 6313649 Accord EXI'97 AT 460T 09173876810 MERCEDES Mercedes Benz 230 Auto Gasoline White Quick Sale / Going O/S 638-4012 • 0918-7077493 MITSUBISHI '76 Mdl L-Type Lancer Saturn Engine Txt 0917-4602171 TOYOTA 91XL 53 150T 09178359022 94GLI LtdEd 6442399 VOLKSWAGON VW Vanagon 0917-4012929 PARTS & ACCESSORIES NISSAN MITSUBISHI HONDA HYUNDAI KIA MAZDA FREE CHECK-UP 8am-7pm GUARANTEED SERVICE for your car engine & Ignition trouble call or see Dan/Andrew service advisor RUBBERVOLT 3716783 TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT CARS FOR RENT L3-Cars • 9273453 4538295 B'New Pregio L3 825-4058 Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123 HONDA MB100 8908668 L300 T 4161105 / 7411356 L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger) StarexMB100HIAce8483535 MB H-Ace L3 Urvan 8257135 P1380 Strx/REVO 2941051 SELF-DRIVE New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS ABC 5368822/3039789 STAREX L300 CARS 7268388 WANTED TO BUY BUYING USED CARS 8990215 CAR LOAN 1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24 2% w/o Taking Car 8966533 2% w/o taking car 7262780 2% w/oTaking Car 3732083 2% w/oTaking Car 3848928 2% w/oTaking Car 7221021 GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP 10/20/35/55 Gen 3610215 Farmtrotor/Ford 3672002 PETS TRAINER 4526881 / 0910720020 SPORTING GOODS B.Table B'new w/accessories • 8014484 / 8020566 • Imported Billiard 22T. 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125	GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP SPORTING GOODS New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453 WANTED TO BUY ANY ROLEX Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886 Buying Rolex Watch Call 6310815;09178411520 BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269587 Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886 WANTED: Computer Product CPU 150 & C Monitor=5T Call: 8259579or 09198669171 WE BUY ROLEX 5633742 5646593 09174383744 WE BUY GOLD HIGHEST PRICE CALL: 8390002 CALL: 8390004 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FEMALE All-Around-Maid: 4 Persons, SS P6-8T, Must Know How to Cook, Ph-4, Horizon Condo, Meralco Ave. cor. Onyx, Ortigas Cir, Pasig City Christian Pre-school near BF Resort LP needs a teacher. College grad a must & loves kids. Leave msg w/ Elaine • 8 7 3 - 6 7 3 1 • Cut&Sew Ladies 5242386 G.K. Private Nurse or Midwife, Big SS, Grad./Undergrad., Ph-4, Horizon Condo, Meralco Ave. cor. Onyx, Ortigas Center, Pasig City Skin Therapist & M.D. w/ Exp. Call Natty/Josie 721-9227 Social Worker House Maids 124 A. Luna Proj 4 QC MALE/FEMALE 28 ADM Staff 9134470 Ace CARE GIVER T5280722 Medical Staff: LPN RN PT 0919-2554488 • 912-4664 Ofc Staff 9134470 Kyle •URGENT! 18 OFC STAFF Start ASAP! 9134470 HAZEL Urgent: Ofc Staff m/l 18-45y Jo Lakk for Daniel 9134470
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Graduate of a business or marketing related course, Hotel & Restaurant Management or Food Technology from a reputable college. Candidate must have good scholastic records.

With 3-5 years work experience in Sales or Marketing in any of the following fields: processed food, food chains or any related business.

Position will require interaction with clients and thus requires good communication skills and a very outgoing personality. He or she needs to be very personable and with good presentation skills.

Qualified candidates may submit resumé, transcript and photo at:

Pure Foods Corporation
 Recruitment and Employment Services
 17/F JMT Corporation Condominium
 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig



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Republic of the Philippines
BONDOP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
 Project Management Office
 Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon

The BDP-PMO wishes to invite interested parties to pre-qualify and to bid for the materials needed below:

- 1 lot - supplies and materials for SIPA DOS Irrigation Project at Padre Burgos, Quezon
- 1 lot - supplies and materials for Farm to Marker Road at Brgy. Suha, Catanauan, Quezon

Pre-qualification forms, complete details and particulars of the above-mentioned can be obtained from BDP-PMO Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00 from 10 to 12 October 2001.

Accomplished pre-qualification statement and annexes should be received by BDP Lucena Liaison Office or Project Management Office, Catanauan, Quezon on or before 18 October 2001.

Only qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the bidding conference which will be held on 29 October 2001, 2:00 p.m. at BDP-PMO, Perez Street, Catanauan, Quezon.

BDP-PMO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept such bids most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ALLEN O. MOLEN
 PBAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 8, 9 & 10, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES * GIFTS, TOYS * GIVEAWAYS for CHRISTMAS Exhibit start Nov-5-Dec3 Rent per Stall PTT 20% for "Early Bird" & SSS members Livelihood Exhibit Center East Ave. (across LTO) QC Call 9257212 9257365 Cell No. 09178480612 PROFIT FROM THE INTERNET Rated #1 Internet franchises. Full Training/Support. No ex- perience req. 1-1 888 678 7688.ph@worldsides.net WEEKLY 4,800 CASH! Catch the wave today! 800-4226 Work From Home 0937903 EARN UNLIMITED INCOME JEWELLERY ON CONSIGNMENT VERY EASY INSTALLMENT TERMS CALL OUR 8390004 HOT LINES: 8390060	PUBLIC NOTICES LEGAL NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO, JR., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 543, Page No. 115, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Atty. Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Piñas City (PDI-Oct. 3, 10, & 17 2001) Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO, JR., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 543, Page No. 115, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Atty. Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Piñas City (PDI-Oct. 3, 10, & 17 2001) Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO, JR., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 543, Page No. 115, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Atty. Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Piñas City (PDI-Oct. 3, 10, & 17 2001) Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO, JR., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 543, Page No. 115, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Atty. Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Piñas City (PDI-Oct. 3, 10, & 17 2001)	PUBLIC NOTICES LEGAL NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO, JR., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 543, Page No. 115, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Atty. Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Piñas City (PDI-Oct. 3, 10, & 17 2001) Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO, JR., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 543, Page No. 115, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Atty. Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Piñas City (PDI-Oct. 3, 10, & 17 2001) Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late PASTOR A. KIMPO, JR., was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 543, Page No. 115, Book No. 1, Series of 2001 Before Notary Public Atty. Al-Flo C. Nilooban of Las Piñas City (PDI-Oct. 3, 10, & 17 2001)
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NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public
 that ACR #E-196037 under
 the name of MR. NGA
 SENG KOH has been lost
 along West Ave., Quezon
 City. If found please call
 740-0830 and look for Jerry

PERSONAL

I can't imagine my life without
 you! I love you so much!
Happy Anniversary
 BABY
 --WIFE--

Retreat for Widows

THE ANNUAL retreat for widows sponsored by PIETA, a spiritual organization of widows, will be held at the Assumption Retreat House, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo, Rizal, on October 26, 27 and 28. Rev. Fr. Francis Hubilla, OSB (Order of St. Benedict) will be the retreat master, Rev. Fr. DP (Delfin Paulino Felipe), PIETA spiritual director will also attend.

For particulars, please call Crescing L. de Jesus, 531-7267; Aleli Ambrosio, 638-8400; Josie Dajac, 927-8819; Ellen Pampolina, 522-8858; Rose Cruz, 922-0428; or Estela B. Cerdania, 435-5482.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No. 421-2327; 911-6001 loc 6592
bac_secretariat_atfmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF NIGHT VISION WEAPON SIGHTS (NVWS)**, with an approved budget of **Forty Nine Million Seven Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (Php 49,766,400.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce said Night Vision Weapon Sight shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **October 10, 2001** until **October 19, 2001** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 19, 2001** at 1:00 PM (local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on **November 15, 2001** at 9:00 AM (local time) after which the Opening of Bids shall immediately follow. Venue is at Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation on the bid.

(Sgd.) GREGORIO M. CAMILING JR
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI-Occ. 9 & 10, 2001)

Canadian Embassy



Ambassade du Canada

NOTICE TO ALL CANADIANS

AVIS À TOUS LES CANADIENS

The Canadian Embassy encourages all Canadian citizens residing in the Philippines on a temporary or permanent basis to register with the Canadian Embassy, Manila. This will assist the Embassy in contacting you during times of emergency or natural disaster.

L'Ambassade du Canada invite tous les citoyens Canadiens résidant temporairement ou en permanence aux Philippines à s'enregistrer à l'Ambassade du Canada à Manille afin de permettre à l'Ambassade de communiquer avec vous en cas d'urgence ou de désastre.

Registration Forms can be obtained at the Embassy which is located on the 9th Floor, Allied Bank Centre, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, as well as, by fax at (632) 810-4299 and by telephone at (632) 867-0001 (For mail requests).

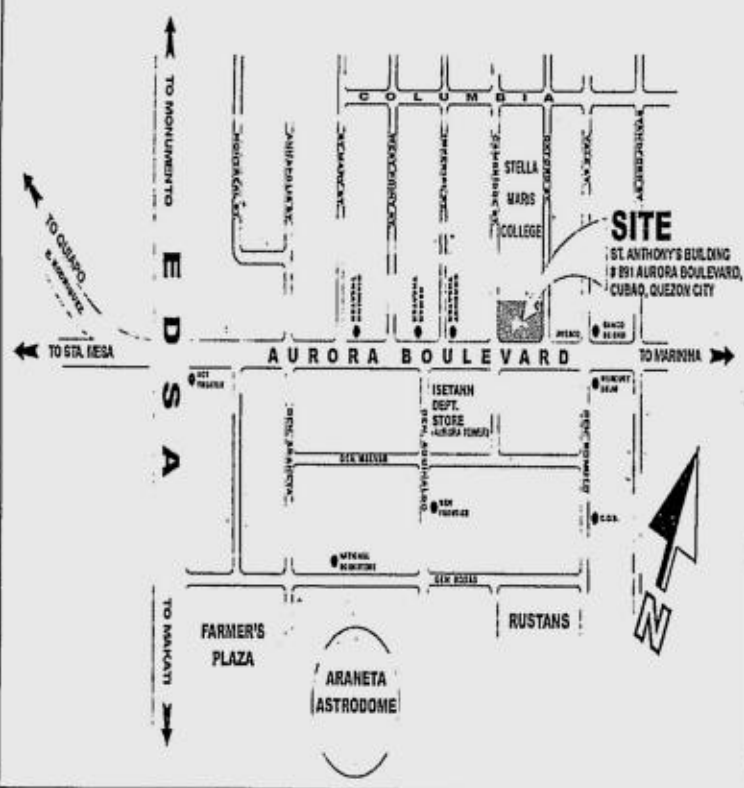
Les fiches d'inscription sont disponibles à l'Ambassade à l'adresse suivante: 9ième, étage, Allied Bank Centre, 6754 avenue Ayala, ville Makati ainsi que par fax au (632) 810-4299 et par téléphone au (632) 867-0001 (envoi par la poste).

<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/manila/>

Canada

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to 11.



NOTICE



Notice is hereby given that the application of **ONEI COMMUNICATIONS, INC.**, with principal office address at 29/F Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New IT Service Firm in the Field of Application Service Provider (Integrated system for such services as communication and E-Commerce) Software Development, and Payment Infrastructure** at the following capacities:

Videocoin Minutes	11,370,240
Photos	126,336
Video Mail	379,008
Photo Merchandise	31,584
Unified Messaging Mins	3,790,080
Surfing Minutes	13,265,280
Transactions	126,336
Software Licensing	200
Home Software Licensing	300
Support Services	40
Consulting	2
Ads and Related	22,080

with project site at the same address above has been officially accepted on **September 26, 2001** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this **26th day of September 2001**.

(Sgd.) C.O. ANGELES
Director
Legal Services Department

(PDI - Oct. 10, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF QUEZON
MUNICIPALITY OF BUENAVISTA
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR
Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project

INVITATION TO BID

Date: October 10, 2001
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 4109-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the **Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP)** and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract No. 01 38206 BVIL-Q for the **Construction of BAGVIL-SAN ISIDRO Road** located at BAGVIL ARC, Buenavista, Quezon. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Buenavista and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP invite sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following sub-project:

Item No.	Work Breakdown Structure	Quantity
100	Clearing & Grubbing	29,800.00 sq.m.
102	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	11,641.00 cu.m.
103	Structure Excavation	183.00 cu.m.
104	Embankment	5,164.00 cu.m.
105	Sub-Base Preparation	17,880.00 cu.m.
200	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	1,788.00 cu.m.
201	Aggregate Base Course	1,788.00 cu.m.
311	PCCP	1,800.00 sq.m.
500-a	RCP Culverts	40.00 lm.
500-b	RCP Culverts	48.00 lm.
504	Grouted Riprap	35.00 cu.m.
505	Stone Masonry	88.00 cu.m.

Bid Security: P130,000.00

Bid Closing Date: November 12, 2001, 10:00 a.m.

Project Duration: 180 calendar days

Minimum Equipment's Required

Bulldozer-owned; Road Grader-owned; Vibratory (12 ton min) Road Roller-owned; Loader-owned/leased; Dump Truck-owned; Water truck-owned/leased.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders at above office starting **October 11, 2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of two thousand pesos only (P2,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on **October 26, 2001** at 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Mayor's Office.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft, or its equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and must be delivered to the Office of the Municipal Mayor, Buenavista, Quezon, on or before the above bid closing date. Bids will be opened promptly on the above bid closing date in the presence of participating bidders or representatives who choose to attend.

The PBAC-ARCDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expense that they incur in the preparation of bid to accept the bid lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(PDI - Oct. 10, 2001)

(Sgd.) HON. RAMON R. REYES
Chairman PBAC-ARCDP

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA,
Assistant Editor

Leading-edge technology shows in Casio Pocket Viewers

IN THESE DAYS of PDAs and high-tech gadgets, the technology and the name that powers your product of choice is critical. Casio, ever a superior name in technological developments, brings information management at its easiest, best and handiest - with the Pocket Viewer. Top-of-the-line from the Casio Pocket Viewers are PV-S450, PV-S250 and PV-750 Plus, the slim and stylish data management tools. All offer PC-synchronization, enabling you to bring all the data you need from your PC to practically wherever you go. All three models also boast of Microsoft Outlook 97/98/2000 Synchronization, and Pocket Sheet Sync for Microsoft Excel 95/97/2000, giving you access to spreadsheet capabilities anytime, anywhere. Other superb features are quick-data copy from your PC to your Pocket Viewer, and PJM

(Personal Information Manager) features Scheduler, Reminder, To Do, Contacts, Expense, Memo and Quick-Memo. All these are possible quick and easy with the Action Control on the side of the Pocket Viewer for no-sweat operation. The PV-750 Plus gives you not just data management at your fingertips but Internet connectivity as well. Send and receive quick and easy e-mail via the infrared wireless hook-up through a GSM phone. Also send and receive text messages through its SMS function.

Casio Pocket Viewers are available at all Western Marketing and Globatronics outlets, SM appliances and SM Stationery outlets, and in all leading computer stores. For product inquiries, call Business Plus Marketing at 637-6420 to 22 or e-mail at westinfo@mozcom.com

37th Anvil Awards launched

THE SEARCH for the country's outstanding public relations programs and projects has begun as the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) has officially opened the 37th Anvil Awards.

The Anvil Awards committee of the PRSP said it is now accepting nominations. The awards will be presented in February next year.

The Anvil is the Philippines' most highly regarded PR award. Winners are selected by a distinguished multi-

sectoral jury under stringent norms. The 37th Anvil covers public relations programs and projects designed or implemented between Oct. 31, 2000 to Oct. 31, 2001.

Entries and nominations must be submitted to the Anvil Awards Committee of the PRSP Secretariat at the close of office hours of Oct. 31, or postmarked not later than Oct. 25.

The entry fee is P5000. Inquiries will be entertained at 636-3242 and 636-3243.



MERIDIAN BROADBAND POWERS UNIVERSE CAFÉ

Universe Café's Glorietta IV branch recently shifted to a Meridian wireless broadband connection in its desire to further improve the Internet experience of its customers. Universe Café is now powered by Meridian's dedicated high-speed link to the Internet bursting to 256 kbps, which will surely excite Internet surfers. Shown during Universe Café's once-a-month free Internet surfing event, which is usually sponsored by companies from various industries, are (from left) Regina Padua, marketing manager of Universe Café; Kookie Alabanza, marketing specialist of Meridian; Gloria Rodriguez, general manager of Universe Café; Ricky Peña, vice president for sales and marketing of Meridian; Tin Tandoc, sales consultant of Meridian, and Ivan Naopil, sales consultant of Meridian. Universe Café has 12 branches nationwide, and three of them are already using Meridian fixed wireless broadband connection. Meridian Telekoms Inc. is the country's pioneer in providing fixed wireless broadband connection.

Still life at Finale

Noted portrait artist Rafael Del Casal is holding a one-man exhibit of rare still life at the Finale Art File Gallery, 403 LaO Centre Building corner Pasay Road and Makati Avenue until today, Oct. 10. Del Casal's show is titled "Still Life", with its canvasses in monochrome tones of orange, verdant greens, radiant pears, contrasted on blues and dainty peach, speak of a unique celebration of life as captured in the magical twilight. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Sundays.

HUDCC chair real estate symposium speaker

CHAIR Michael T. Defensor of the Housing Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) will be the Speaker on the topic "Government's Agenda on Housing" in a symposium on "Philippine Property Market: Prospects for Growth and Dynamism" hosted by the Philippine Association of Realtors Board, Quezon City, to be held at the Club Filipino, Greenhills on Oct. 11 from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The symposium aims to provide a venue for government policy makers to discuss with the private sector critical growth and development issues affecting the real estate industry. The other speakers include Emmanuel Angeles, CEO of the Clark

Development Authority; former Governor Rodolfo G. Valencia, chair of the RGV Group of Companies and lawyer Florencio B. Orendain, Chair of FBO Management Network.

Property owners, developers, investors, real estate practitioners, and the general public are invited to participate in this symposium which aims to generate inputs vital to the development of policies and guidelines relevant to the alleviation of the present plight of the real estate industry. Interested parties may call the Quezon City Realtors Board secretariat at 721-6884 or Rushmore Management Systems at 912-2304 for reservations.

DDB Philippines wins London ad awards finalist citation

A PUBLIC service print ad made by DDB Philippines for its PR client Department of Environment and Natural Resources was picked as one of the finalists from across the globe in the prestigious 2001 London International Advertising Awards.

DDB's "Posporo" is about illegal logging and the everyday damage it does to the environment. It also makes an emotional appeal to the government to give more teeth to its anti-logging law.

The simple yet graphically provoking ad shows disposable matchsticks igniting simultaneously like raging forest fires. DDB cleverly made a visual surprise by showing matchsticks turning into forest trees.

The ad was created by DDB Philippines' Makati office team headed by Roger Pe (creative director); Juan Paolo Tana (senior art director); Rex Lopez and Rhio Vargas (art directors); Roger Alas (print producer); Calypso (print production house).

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"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in me will live,
 even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die"

John 11:25-26

Gloria (Giging) Villanueva Martin Viray

December 26, 1930 — October 5, 2001

Her Bereaved Family:

Husband: **Antonio M. Viray**

Children: **Jo-Ann & Greg Arcenas; Lulu & Gov. Joeben Miraflores; Mariter Martin;
 Ricky & Inday Martin; Josie & Bobby Yusay; Johnny Boy Martin & Tonette Viray**

Grandchildren: **Lou-Ann, Joen & Miguel Martin Miraflores;**

Chris, Patrick, Ella & Ria Asis Martin;

RJ, Matt & Vine Martin Yusay;

And her ever faithful, **Viring.**

Request humbly Relatives, Friends & Readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Burial

October 12, 2001; 9:00 a.m.

Roxas City Cathedral

ANTONIO J. OPERARIO

of Sulat, Eastern Samar and
 Sta. Maria, Bulacan

Peacefully joined his Creator
 on October 8, 2001 at the age of 65.

His loving wife Ruby H. Perez; his children
Phoebe Ann, Ma. Daphne Ann and Iris Marigold;
 sister **Lourdes O. Laus;** relatives and friends request
 your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 23
 P. Luciano Sr. Street, Poblacion, Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 11, 2001
 at 1:00 PM.

In Loving Memory

On the Second Death Anniversary of

EXUPERIO "BRO. PING"
C. ALCANTARA

of
 Malate, Manila and Gogon, Virac, Catanduanes
 from his Family.

We request the pious readers to pray for the
 eternal repose of his soul.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at 6:00 PM at
 Our Lady of Remedies Church, Malate, Manila and the
 Immaculate Conception Church, Virac, Catanduanes

BIENVENIDA (BENING)
LOPEZ MEDALLA

January 24, 1931 - October 8, 2001

Her loving husband **VICTORINO (TURING)
 MEDALLA;** children **Bess & Robert Armstrong, Fe
 & Noli Pagtalunan, Mavi & Ris Malolos, Jun &
 Marinel and Lynn;** brothers, sisters and in-laws
**Rodolfo, Constantino & Avelina, Juanistor, Orestes
 & Nenita, Rexie, Severo & Remedios, Silvina and
 Edilberto Gaddi, Carmen Diaz and Juan de Leon;**
 grandchildren **Carlo, Nikki, Maricar & Julien;**
 nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the
 pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Chapels
 at Sucat Road, Parañaque. Interment will be on
 Thursday, October 11, 2001 at 3:00 PM at the Manila
 Memorial Park.

...remember, I am with you always. To the end of the age
 Matthew 28:20

VIRGILIO P. MOZO, SR.
"Tatay"

Retired Director, Banco Sentral ng Pilipinas

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 8, 2001 at the age of 72.

His loving wife **NATIVIDAD;** children **SUSAN, ALICE & ORLIE, FE & MOSHIN,
 SR. VIRGIE (Columban), OLIVE & LITO, NATTY & WENDELL, MAY & ROY and
 CHITO;** grandchildren **KRIS, MARLO and ESPIE, FAROOQ and AZIM, KIM, JULO,
 KRISHA and PAOLO, JOSE OLIVER, MANDEE and POT-POT;** sisters and brothers,
 relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Mt. Carmel Mortuary Chapel, Dola Juana Rodriguez, New
 Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 13, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina
 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

BELEN BELTRAN ANDAL

Of Lucena, Quezon and Pandacan, Manila

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 7, 2001.

Her loving family: husband **MIGUEL (†);** children **RUBEN, ZENY
 & CHARLY, HELEN & ROMY;** grandchildren **REGGIE & BAMBI,
 LOUIE, R-CHIE, JUSTIN, C-JAY, JOREL, PAOLO, ANGELI,
 EDWARD & NICOLLO;** great grandchildren **NIKKI & NICO;** relatives
 and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta
 Avenue, Quezon City until Thursday morning, October 11, 2001, after
 which she will be brought to Cuenca, Batangas.

Interment will be on Friday, October 12, 2001, after the 2:00 p.m. rites.

LIGLIWA FERRER
CAINDEC

BSED, University of the Philippines Class '52

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
 on October 8, 2001 at the age of 69.

Her remains lie in state at
 Arlington Memorial Chapels,
 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
 Interment to be announced later.

Ricardo Cardinal Vidal

will be the main celebrant at the
 Concelebrated Mass this morning at
 10:00 a.m. before the interment of **MRS.
 EDITA DADIA TOLENTINO,** Pro
 Ecclesia Et Pontifice, wife of Papal Knight
 Commander, Larry C. Tolentino. The
 Mass will be at the Don Bosco Parish
 Church, Pasay Road, Makati City.
Bishop Ruben T. Proflugo, Bishop of
 Lucena will also concelebrate.

Mrs. Tolentino is survived by her
 husband, their only daughter Mary Anne,
 Vice President, Head of Internet
 Banking, Bank of the Philippine Islands.

The interment will follow after the
 Concelebrated Mass at the Heritage Park
 at Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

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DIMSUM FOR THE ANGUISHED SOUL

Chin-Ning Chu: 'I asked God, why?'

BY CHIN-NING CHU

(Chin-Ning is the foremost authority on Sun Tzu's Art of War and author of international best selling books: *Do Less, Achieve More*; *Thick Face, Black Heart*; *The Asian Mind Game* and *Working Woman's Art of War* with translations into seventeen languages. She has readers and clients in over sixty countries, counting among them Presidents and Prime Ministers, Chairmen and CEOs of international Fortune 500 companies. She also e-mails her reflections known as "Dimsum for the Successful Soul" to a network of friends and clients, including the *People at Work* editor.)

ON SEPTEMBER 12th (Australia is 21 hours ahead of New York), I

opened the door of my room at Brisbane's Hilton Hotel in Australia. On the floor outside the newspaper headline stared up at me, "Americans Under Attack." I picked it up and started to read a little bit; my first thought was that it was a novel. Part of me wanted to believe it was a novel it could not be true. As I went to the airport, heading for Sydney to continue the Australian tour for my new book, the radio stations were broadcasting the same horrible news.

After my media interviews, I sat glued to the television and couldn't go to sleep until well past midnight. I felt a great sense of helplessness. People are suffering, buried under the massive, crumbled buildings, yet I couldn't help at all. I kept pacing my hotel room in tears and asking God, "Why this?" It seemed all so

unjust, so cruel and pointless. Even though I was willing to accept that mysterious is the way of God's action, still I couldn't help asking, "Why?" along with all the other billions of people on earth.

As I fell asleep, passing the hazy corridor between wakefulness and asleep, in that twilight state of mind, I suddenly remembered the dream that I had had 24 hours prior to the destruction of the World Trade Center. The same feeling of agonizing helplessness resurfaced. In my dream, I had seen Christ hanging on a cross with a thorned crown on his head, but he did not have the familiar two thieves hanging beside him. Rather, he was in the middle of many rows made up of thousands of people hanging on crosses like his, surrounding him. And he was not

on a cross on a dirt hill outside Jerusalem, his cross was planted in the concrete of a paved street. There were also more people lining up, each dragging their own cross waiting to be crucified. These people were in excruciating pain and I was the only silent witness to this event.

A few hours prior to the perpetration of this horrific incident in New York, when I was on the phone to a friend in Taiwan sharing this mystical dream with him, I had said, "I don't understand this dream because Christ was not nailed up on that bleak mountain with the two thieves, rather he was on a paved street and there were endless rows of other people. This dream doesn't make any sense at all."

As I lay there drifting back into sleep, I suddenly saw with crystal clarity the meaning of this dream. I had seen the people that were going to die in New York City, Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, and I and the rest of the world could not help them at all. We were helplessly watching it happen. In this thoughtless state, it came to me that the reason these innocent people were hanging on crosses beside Christ was due to the presence of a great hatred and evil that exists in this world today. And this evil has been magnified to the point that innocent, good people, along with Jesus Christ, had to die

again before the people of this world would remember that there is a great, infinite love hidden behind the human heart. The first time Christ was crucified was also because of hatred; out of Christ's death, love was resurrected. And out of the death of these good people, love can be awakened throughout the world.

However, along with the surfacing of love, there is also an accelerating hatred that is aimed towards anyone who likely resembles those from the Middle East. I remember when I saw the CNN and BBC's live video feeds of the jet hitting head-on into the World Trade Tower, besides grief, I also felt hatred. I hated all the terrorist perpetrators.

As I lay in the Sydney hotel room, after I understood the meaning of my dream, all the feelings of hatred just evaporated. I know, the more we hate, the more the world suffers.

I have said in all of my books, "Spirituality is not about being holy on Sunday at church, in the temple or at the mosque; rather, it is to be tested every day in challenges great or small." And as our hearts are filled with sadness, deep grief, pain and anger, and even hatred towards the offenders, we must transform these emotions into the only positive power that is stronger than the power of that grief, anger and hate that of love. Only by doing so, Christ and other



CHIN-NING

good people will not have to be nailed on the crosses again and again.

For days I pondered whether I should write of this dream because I don't want to appear to be "holier than thou." I then realized that God gave me this insight, not to keep to myself, but to give this to all the people that were asking the same question I was, "Why?"

If you share these feelings and thoughts with me, I offer this article for you to forward to all whom you know and spread the dominion of love that we might neutralize the grief and anger we feel over this senseless slaughter of the innocents.

(Visit Chin-Ning Chu's web site, www.chinningchu.com.)

Is your boss a time bandit?

ONE of the common time bandits in the work setting is the boss. In the pre-TQM days, the boss is generally accepted as the lord almighty who makes all the decisions and whose power lies in wielding control. With the advent of TQM and in this age of information, the boss is now considered the number one service giver in the workplace. He is expected to empower the organization and the employees. His power lies not in controlling but in his leadership and stewardship.

Scenario

It is wise to consider "investing" your time wisely on "managing" your boss rather than just spending time doing what the boss wants done, the way, the place and time he wants it done. Take this scenario:

"Ana did not get her raise because she did not get her promotion. She showed poor performance because she did not get all her work done on time. The reason? Her boss Ricky gave her too much to do. Her boss interrupts her during the day because he wants to give her new things to do or because he wants to check on what she is doing. Ana follows him because she thinks his opinions of what she should be doing is more important than her own even though she has the requisite knowledge and skills to do her job and better control of her time and life. It is so much easier for her to drift and spend the day responding to instructions rather than taking the initiative because, after all, the boss is always right. If Ana tried to do things in what she thinks as a more efficient way, the boss will just feel threatened. Ricky thinks that the boss is the boss and might not understand her lowly ideas."

When your boss becomes a burdensome baggage that gets in the way of your work and performance, you must take the bull(y) by the horns and confront the issue. Managing your manager may seem a long way from time management but no



By Moje Ramos-Aquino

one impacts upon your use of time more than your immediate superior.

Tips

To live a happy productive life in the office, let us continue with our Workshop on Investing Time (on Your Boss) to Achieve Your Career Plans to Realize your Life Plans. Here are some tips on "managing" your boss.

- If a task is ill defined, seek clarification. If seemingly random alterations are asked in your deliverables, ask for the reasons and next time clarify these and similar points at the beginning. If your boss is difficult, try writing a small specification for each task before beginning and get his agreement. While you can not tactfully hold your manager to this contract, if he has a change of mind, it will at least cause him to consider the issues early on, before you waste your time on false assumptions.

- Get his clarification as to what constitutes long term goals vi-a-vis urgent and immediate goals. Ask your boss for the big picture to give you an idea of the immediacy and importance of the task at hand. If you complete the task, what will be the result? If you don't complete on time, what would happen?

- Organize for action—make a weekly plan, to-do list, and calendar of tasks. Share your plans, list and calendar with your boss and display them prominently where he could see it. This will help you say "no" when he gives you unexpected tasks. Train your boss to respect your time.

- Share with your boss your personal life plans, career plans, knowl-

edge and skills, what keeps you motivated, and your feelings about certain issues in the office. Be careful, though, not to share anything that might limit your career. There is absolutely no need, for example, to tell your boss that you hate being told what to do and that you could work independently, thank you. The purpose of sharing is to clear the air and to come up with mutually beneficial guidelines for working together and not to threaten or antagonize the boss.

- Give your boss feedback. You see things more objectively than your boss does because he is so enmeshed in the problems of his job and he is probably clueless that he is creating time problems for you. The tricky part here is to know the best time and circumstance for giving feedback. Always be respectful. You want to help your boss not simply to criticize or flatter him. Give him specific positive feedback or suggest ways of improving. Do a time log of all the extra things you have been doing for him to the detriment of your own job. These are objective data, not just your feelings and emotions. Discuss this time log with your boss and suggest how your boss could help you manage your own time. Most likely, the boss is not aware that he has been encroaching on your productive time.

Cultivate an ambience of sincerity, honesty and integrity; hostile, negative thoughts and actions contribute to waste of time and emotion. If you really can't work well with your boss or you don't share the same work ethics, ask for a transfer or simply take your boss, warts and all. Or if you are just smarting from a scolding, get out of your office and walk around your building or take time off until you cool down. Don't take things personally, though, *trabaho lang iyan*.

(Next week: more tips. Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com.)

'I lost my job, but I can start anew'

BY BING FUENTES

I LOST my job last month. I saw the others go before me not knowing I'll be one of them later on. Last year, I vowed that if I didn't get a raise by the first quarter, I'd start job hunting. I tried. But the hassle of skipping lunch or faking illness and emergency to go to exams and interviews made me give up. Had I known that I'd be laid off too I should have put up with it.

I was very supportive to the group that left before me. Before they left, I gave news clippings, forwarded e-mail, lent them books and reviewers, and suggested companies and headhunters. I assured them it's no longer a stigma to admit you were laid off. I told them that it's not their fault, that it's beyond their control, that they shouldn't take it personally, and that this could lead to something better.

Empty cubicles

It was depressing to go to work seeing more and more empty cubicles. It was exhausting creating excuses and explanations to creditors. It was hard to resist taking longer lunches, playing computer games, reading the newspapers and surfing the net.

I began to think it's better to be released and start anew than to merely exist for your next paycheck.

Some of those who left before are still unemployed. They are hindered by age, status, lack of experience or skills, or lack of eligibility or professional license. Some are waiting for an insider (friend, relative, *ninong* or *kumapare*) to help ease them into another company. Some helped in the family business or applied abroad or are just picky. Those employed accepted the first offer to ensure continuous income for their family. Others took a pay cut when their separation pay ran out.

One of them

Now, I'm one of them. I'm living off my credit cards for my daily expenses. In fact one-third of my separation pay will go to paying off my debts. Debts from purchasing basic needs like food,

toiletries and detergent. My luxuries were shoes, clothes and books—all low end. I'm single, without dependents and have never been status-conscious, yet, I couldn't survive on my salary alone.

It's hard not to feel ashamed. I couldn't tell my family, just my mother to whom I will entrust the money I'll get. I know its happening even to prestigious companies around the world. I know it can happen to anyone in the company—from highly-paid executives to minimum wage clerks, pioneer employees to the newly hired contractual, productive and efficient workers to company deadweights. I know I should be thankful that they gave me enough time and that I'll be compensated, unlike smaller companies who can't afford to. But it still hurts. I can't help feeling the company betrayed me in spite of my loyalty.

Regrets

Yet, I saw it happening right in front of me. Why didn't I act sooner? I felt it was unprofessional to apply while I was still employed, that I couldn't work one hundred percent if I was constantly fantasizing about greener pastures or using company resources in my job hunt.

How could I have believed that I would be spared when my position and my skills are not that unique or exceptional? Had I shown willingness to do other things, they would have found something for me within the organization. But I boxed myself in my comfort zone. Now I realize I betrayed myself. As I pore over the want ads every week, I saw my deficiencies. Since I cannot compete with the younger, more aggressive hustlers, I'll have to learn, update and expand my repertoire to make myself marketable.

Insights

One of my officemates likened the downsizing process to death—we all have to go sooner or later, we just don't know when and how. Now I realize that like death, I need to mourn, reflect and learn before I can move on. I am partially responsible for what happened. I need to identify and accept what went



ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

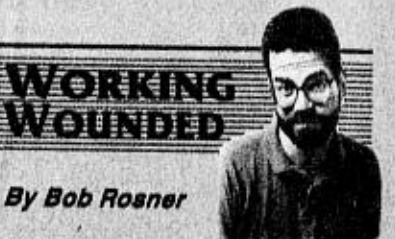
wrong and what to avoid in the future. Like being more observant. Like listening and asking questions and keeping myself updated instead of keeping to myself. Most importantly, not depending on the company for my future.

With my future at stake, I find myself asking what I really want to do with my life. What motivates me—wealth or contentment, prestige or respect, accomplishment or service, success or fulfillment? What would I rather do, where would I rather be if I wasn't tied to an office? Do I still want to work in an office? Do I still want to be a secretary? I'm still checking the want ads, still e-mailing my resume. But I'm also trying to be a writer, something I remembered when I saw my old scribbles and schoolwork as I sorted out my closet. I don't know how far this will go. But with time on my hands and potential earnings, why not? It's better to have tried and discover it's a mistake than wonder "what if?" for the rest of my life. If I hadn't lost my job, I wouldn't be forced to review my life and start anew.

(Send your contributions to reyes@inquirer.com.ph)

How do you find out what the employees are really saying?

DEAR WW: Everybody in my company seems to think they have x-ray vision and the ability to predict the future! Our office is full of rumors—rumors that are wrong and that create anxiety and conflict for everyone. What can I do as a manager to shut down the rumor mill? Tired of the Grape Vine



By Bob Rosner

You know Marvin Gaye's classic, "I Heard It Through the Grapevine." Now I'd like to ask everyone to sing along with the Working Wounded version: "Ooh, I bet you're wondering how they knew, about your plans and your to-do's. It takes you by surprise the way, you announce a change, turns out they've known for days. They heard it through the grapevine. All that time you've been blind. Oh, they heard it through the grapevine, and you're about to lose your mind."

Well, don't lose your mind. Just lose your paranoia and learn how to make the grapevine your friend. Check out Mark Eppler's book, "Management Mess-Ups" (Career Press, 1997). It tells you how to turn your rumor mill into an ongoing focus group that enables you to tap into what your employees are really thinking and feeling. It also covers 56 other common management mistakes from the failure to understand why people resist change to the failure to make creativity as important as timeliness. I've adapted the following from his book.

1. Do you hear it on the grapevine? Don't be caught by surprise.

Ask several trusted employees to keep you up to date on the latest rumors.

2. Do you give employees enough information? Or do you withhold information because you think releasing the information would be "premature?" Or because employees "don't really need to know?" Or because you're worried information will "leak?" In the absence of information, employees will create their own, so make sure they have all the data they need.

3. Do you keep the lines of communication open? Rumors often start because of misunderstandings, or because information wasn't communicated quickly and clearly. Avoid those traps by instituting regular, easy-to-access communication channels: e-mail, newsletters, phone trees, informal meetings, etc.

4. Do you monitor the grapevine for false information? You can't control what employees say, but you can defuse their bombs by monitoring the rumors and immediately squelching all false ones.

5. Do you use the grapevine to spread accurate information? Every organization has informal leaders who wield real clout in the cafeteria and back hallways.

Do some digging and find out who these people are. Then send them with the information you want spread around.

Manage the grapevine well and you won't have to worry about its turning out only sour grapes. Soon you can be singing (with apologies to Marvin Gaye): "They heard it through the grapevine, but I don't mind, man, I feel fine! Oh, they heard it through the grapevine, and I don't mind because I made it mine!"

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Which movie title best describes the grapevine at your company?

—All Quiet On the Western Front, 18.3 percent

—True Grit, 24.8 percent

—Mean Streets, 58.8 percent

Our winning strategy for dealing with the company grapevine comes from a manager in Ontario, Canada. "I took over a company with a reputation of poor production and bad employee relations. Once a week I spend an hour working on the floor in place of an employee, and afterwards treat everyone to a couple of buckets of chicken, courtesy of the company. My message—rumors and speculation are destructive at work. Every employee now has a weekly opportunity to confront me, in person, in his or her environment. This experience also helped me appreciate the intricacies of each job. Production is now at record numbers."

(E-mail it back to bb@workingwounded.com.)

Former British...

(From page B14)

expressing their satisfaction.

Whether in Manila, Hong Kong or elsewhere, Barker encounters more or less the same problems and the same challenges. "Some things are universal," he avers. One of these is finding the right answers or solutions to a client's problems. "Or having a client who fails to see these solutions or simply refuses to. The challenge is to be able to persuade him to see things your way. You use verbal skills and every available practical means. Opening his mind and convincing him may take some time. I've figured it's part of the game."

Cultural sensitivity

Auckland-based Barker admits that foreign practitioners of management do have an edge over local ones. "People tend to be impressed because of the fact that we are foreign. I don't take advantage

of this," Barker says he does not talk down to people whatever the color of their skin and the shape of their eyes. "It's not fair because more often than not, they know more than you do. And often they are better educated. It may be that they simply do not apply this knowledge."

Among the different nationalities he has come familiar with, Barker observes that Filipinos tend to value relationships most. "Relationships are very important to them. It's not so with other peoples, like the Australians for example. To them what matters most is the service you're delivering." Filipinos, he further observes, like to be "entertained." Preferring the obvious to the subtle. "This is why we have to be imaginative in conducting training programs. We have to inject variety," explains Barker.

His firm, Strategic Consulting

Services (SCS), according to him, is soon expanding to China and most probably India. Aside from Manila, Barker also spends a lot of time in Kuala Lumpur and lately, in Bangkok where SCS is setting up an office. "Most of the time, my work takes me away from home. This is my only regret." Otherwise, Barker is decidedly happy and content, and fortunately for his clients, intends to keep on doing what he's doing.

(Alar...ker...be she his expertise on "Effective Influencing Skills" in the third run of the *People at Work Live! Seminar Series* to be held on Nov. 13, 2001, Tuesday, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Equitable PCIB Tower One Auditorium, Makati Ave., Makati City. Tickets are available at P250, P300 and P350. Call tel. no. 897-8808 local 554 for details.)

PEOPLE *at* WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

CAREER *Tales*

Former British Royal Air Force man helps SEA companies succeed

BY CECILE G. GARCIA

MANAGING people is like flying a plane: you need to do it with great care, skill, guts and love. And apparently, Alan Barker has managed to leverage his experience as a member of the British Royal Air Force to competently take on the challenging task of providing management consultancy services to Southeast Asia.

Offhand, the British Royal Air Force would seem an unlikely training ground for a career in management consultancy. This, of course, is contrary to the claim of Alan Barker, a former RAF officer and now a successful global management consultancy practitioner. Says Barker, "I got my training in the field of management while I was with the RAF."

Management experience

Most RAF officers who fly, according to Barker, are expected to do other things as well. "In my case, out of the 20 years I had with the RAF, 14 were spent in organizational planning, and in developing, training and managing personnel." This paved the way for an alternate career for Barker who took up the challenge when he made the transition from military to civilian life.

Barker, who is managing director for Asia-Pacific of Strategic Consulting Services, a management consultancy firm based in Auckland,

New Zealand, was born, bred and educated in London, England. He lives in New Zealand where he migrated with his wife and two daughters in 1976. He left England for New Zealand after his stint with the RAF ended and he decided to join the Royal New Zealand Air Force. Shortly after, he switched from aeronautical service to management. He has concentrated on this for the last 20 years, specializing in organizational restructuring. "Every management practitioner should have a focus," says Barker.

Philippine operations

A managing director of Strategic Consulting Services (SCS), however, part of Barker's job is to visit the company's 11 offices in Southeast Asia. He comes to Manila six to seven times a year. "I've been coming here for the past decade," he says. Seven years ago, SCS established a partnership with Impact Consultancy, Inc. Having a local affiliate, according to Barker, is a natural extension of SCS' thrust into the region. The Philippines is their first major partner in Southeast Asia.

Barker says he goes wherever he's needed. "In Manila, Impact sets the purpose for my visits. Usually, it is to design training programs for specific clients. Every program is customized to the particular needs and requirements of a client. I design and develop the program and show the staff how to deliver and implement it."

Designing a program, says Barker, is detailed and comprehensive work. It includes organizing and identifying problems, and finding the corresponding solutions. It entails exhaustive analyses, which can be done through interviews, surveys and other methods.

Global scope

Being global gives Barker's job a distinct dimension. "You learn to adapt," he says. "You realize you can't bring a Western or European frame of mind to an Asian culture. In the Philippines, in terms of decision-making, I've learned that things do not move as fast as they do, say,

in Australia or some other place. I have learned to be patient."

"But Filipinos are generally easy to work with," contends Barker. The British-born consultant would like to think that they have readily accepted him not because he's a Westerner but rather because of mutual respect and admiration.

Whenever possible, Barker invites consultants of their local affiliate to conduct training programs in other Southeast Asian cities. "They're very competent and we've worked with them for a long time," he says. On the part of Impact consultants, they welcome the opportunity to go global. According to them, Barker's presence in their group has given it more stability and structure. And clients aware of the expertise brought in by a foreign affiliate have greater confidence in Impact.

Basic skills

Global or not, Barker ventures to add, an effective management consultant needs to have certain basic skills. To begin with, he points out, he must be professionally qualified. (Barker himself has post-graduate degrees in Personnel Management, Training and Development and in Industrial Relations.)

In order to succeed in the trade, he must also be people-oriented. In other words, says Barker, he should genuinely like people. "He must be creative and innovative. He should be able to introduce variations in training programs. He should know how to make use of as many forms of media as he can in training methods."

Just as valuable are communication skills, instinct and a real concern for the client and a willingness to do what is best for him and his interests every time.

Barker puts a premium on developing long-term relationships with clients. "This is one of the aims of management consultancy," he says. Clients who use their services repeatedly, he notes, and who give them referrals are in effect

FORMER/B13



BARKER

PHOTO BY JOHNNY VILLENA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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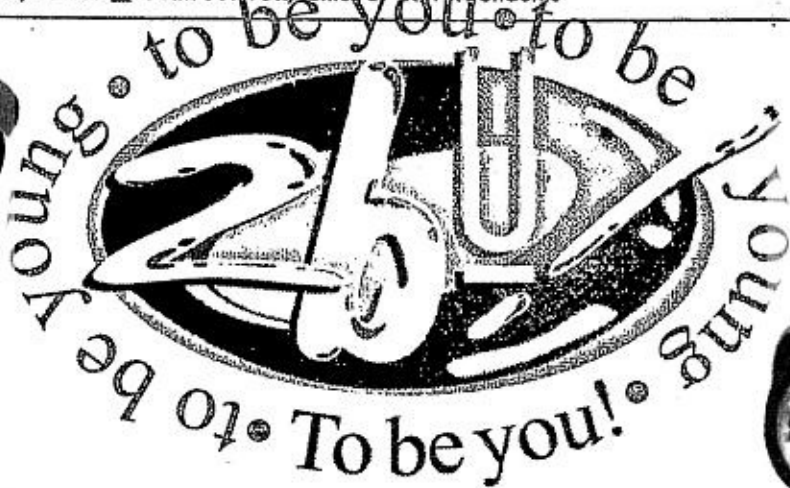
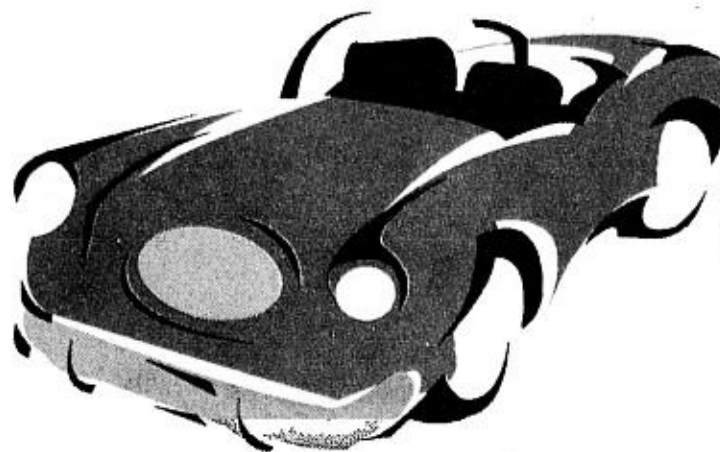
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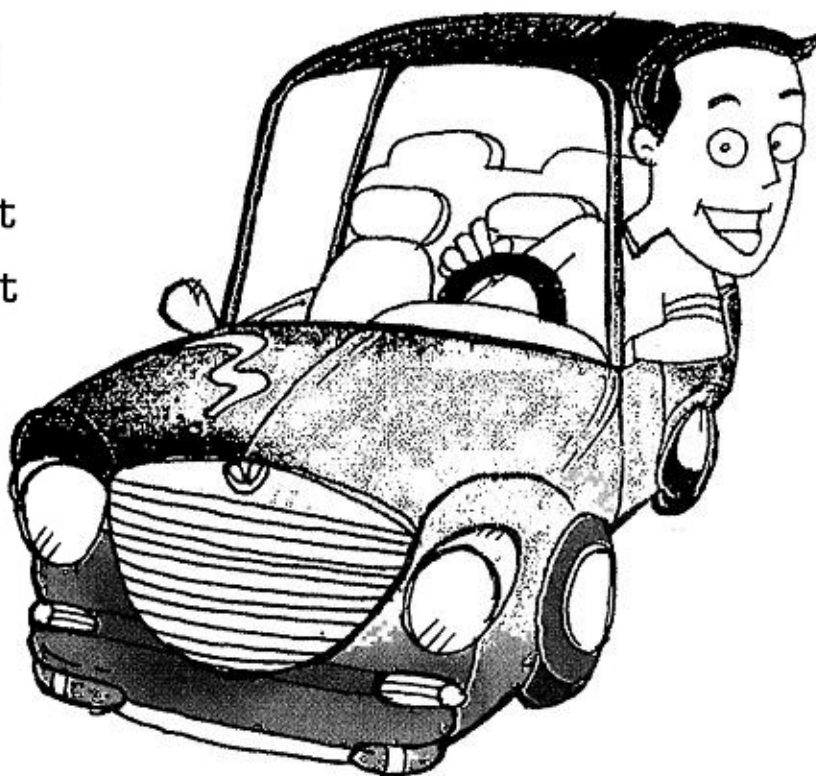


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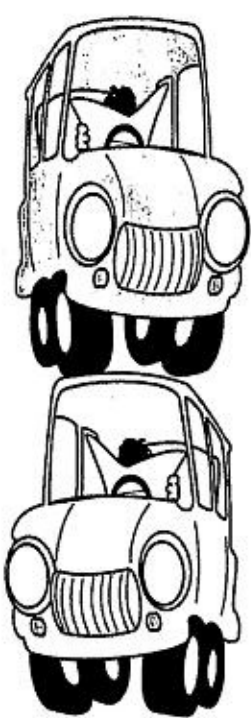
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How to act, what to do and say on a first date

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I'm 15 and I've asked this girl out for a date. I'm nervous about the whole thing because it's my first date. Anyway, I just want to ask you guys on how to act when you're on a date, what to say and what to wear, all that stuff. Thanks.

ALEX

There is the age-old advice "Just be yourself," which is something we all could heed. But sometimes, our real selves are just not enough to charm other people so I'll try my best to enlighten you in the ways of impressing a girl.

The most important thing (or so I've heard) when you're with a girl, whether in a date or not, is making her laugh at all costs. It doesn't matter if you're not a class clown material. In fact, it would be a plus if you don't normally grab everybody's attention and then you show a different funny side when you're alone—sort of—with a girl. This brings us to the next best way to charm a girl: Show her a side of yourself that people don't usually see. If you have secret passions that are not on the perverted side, try sharing it with her. It's a bit risky because who knows what things can turn a girl off but at least you're being truthful about yourself.

Another thing to remember: Listen to her. When you happen to disagree with whatever she's



Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

saying, don't get into a debating mode because that's not cool. Sure, girls like guys who have opinions on different matters but cutting her off or trying too much to prove your point may not get you a second date.

I guess those three things are the most important pieces of advice I can give you. Make that five—be clean (at least clean-looking) and don't be late. Oh, and whatever rules she has to abide by, like curfew and other things, follow them, too.

Good luck and have fun.

SEP

Time was when doorbells, and not text messaging, was the way to call upon a date when you pulled up outside her house.

Be adventurous and try something—not necessarily new—but perhaps new for this age. Meeting the parents is always a good way to start the date. That way you can visualize what your date will be looking like in 20 years. Be nice to the mother.

When crossing the street, always stay on the dangerous side of traffic.

Wear something red (and keep an ID in your pockets for easier identification at the morgue).

Before choosing a restaurant, movie, or café, determine the status of your finances and/or her willingness to go dutch. James Ingram's tip: If she wants to pay, find 100 ways. But always offer to get her back later. If you choose to do the coffee-shop thing (the rage nowadays), be ready to change venue once the conversation runs dry. The dating environment can be more fun in a place conducive to conversation.

Most of the time girls like it when guys make simple decisions that'll make her feel like she's being taken care of. Pick the movie you think she would enjoy. If it's a boring chick flick, you can rag on the movie afterward. Take notes (and don't lose that identification card).

Above all things, make sure the date is fun for her. You don't have to call her back for a second date, but making new friends is always worth an afternoon date.

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BABY, I CAN'T DRIVE MY CAR—YET

BY TAMMY DAVID
2bU! Correspondent

WHAT's that CD?" I asked my dad when he entered the den one night last week. "It's Sinatra for my retro car. Why?" As soon as he said "retro car," I ran out to the garage and saw one of my dream cars, the Nissan Verita. A dream car for me because it was a classic. Being small, though, I doubted if I would fit there. I sort of knew that it was for me and my sister but I was still surprised.

I first saw the Verita (a.k.a. *lolo ng Toyota Echo* or Mr. Bean's car) about a year ago in a car show and instantly thought it was a European car. I was going through a British phase so it topped my list of cars to have in my lifetime. I pictured myself cruising around the city, Burt Bacharach playing on the stereo and

Owning a car these days no longer means joyrides or freedom but P20 parking tickets, dents, insurance headaches, highway bullies and gas bills

heads turning at the sight of my magnificent car driven by a big blob.

Big responsibility

My first car! I started to smile but it soon started to fade as I realized that owning a car these days no longer means joyrides or freedom but P20 parking tickets, dents, insurance headaches, highway bullies and gas bills. I can hear my conscience screaming: "This is a big responsibility, Tammy..."

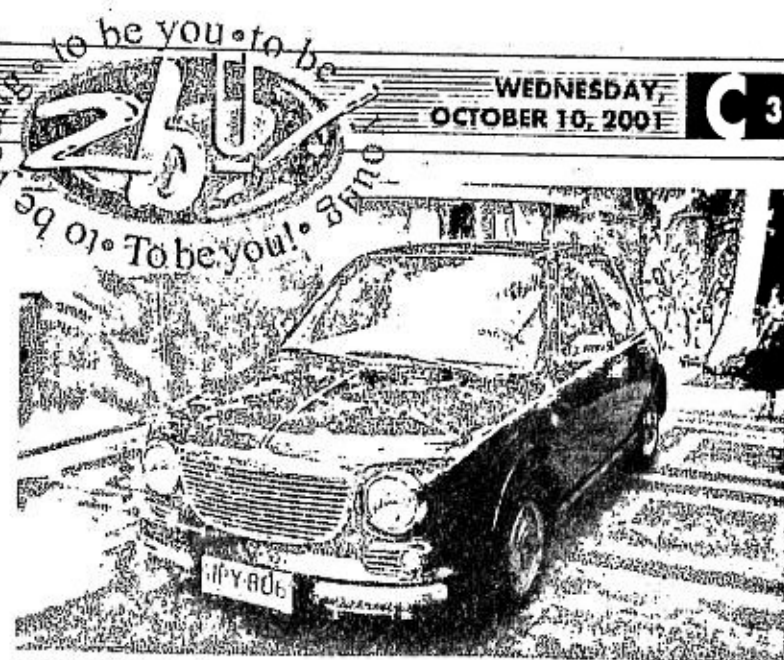
Now I have to deal with the responsibility. If a car is a big responsibility like a dog or a kid, I should treat it like one. I gave the car a name—"Ang loser *no!*" said my friend Kellyn—"Colin," one of my favorite English names (as in Firth the actor from "Fever Pitch," and as in Greenwood from Radiohead, the musician), and since the car looked British. I might change the name since my sister, the co-owner, preferred Darcy (as in Mr. or Mark) and

the Ilonggo helpers at home might call it *Kullinn*.

The bumper sticker

I dug up my stuff for the bumper sticker with Jay and Silentbob (of "Mallrats"), which my sister Coffy gave me. It says, "Beats your P.O.S." I've been saving this for my first car so Colin gets to have it. I was tempted to have the car spray painted with the Union Jack, the British flag, but people might not take Colin seriously and mistake it for a bump car when I drive on Edsa.

Since Colin's interior is all leather, I have to get rid of my bad habits of eating and taking my shoes off inside the car. I promise to keep Colin clean forever and to personally wash it regularly. I also promise to be a good driver, to concentrate on my driving to avoid accidents. Since the car does not have an airbag and the steering wheel is of vintage design (chromed-steel and wood), I have to



MEET "Colin"

be extra careful. Road bullies could smash into me in a second.

I have yet to experience the headaches and rewards of having a car. I also have yet to fully appreciate the fact that this is not a rollerblade that I can just throw around and skid anywhere. And unlike scratches in a cell phone that can be fixed by getting a new case, it will not be as

easy to repair dents in a car.

Moreover, this car is from my dad who made sacrifices to stop the nagging from his kids. I can't wait to go on a Sunday afternoon cruise with Colin. But first, I will have to learn how to drive!

E-mail the author at chris_trent_thom@lycos.com

First Car

BY ANNE ROSE
A. ELICANO
2bU! Correspondent

ALL those who have read (or still read) Archie comics are probably familiar with Archie's dinky red car, Betsy. Although it was old, had broken down several times, and led to all sorts of mishaps, Archie loved it anyway.

Someone actually offered to buy Betsy (I've forgotten in which issue) and, although Archie was excited at first, he refused to sell in the end. Reggie Mantle bugged him about it but Archie retorted, "No dice. Ol' Betsy and I have been through a lot." The way Archie felt about Betsy is actually typical of most people's attachment to their first car.

Being an inexperienced driver and mindful of my parents' rule that I should not drive beyond our village's gates until I got my license, I may not be as sentimental as other people about their first cars. But I'm slowly moving in that direction. My first car was a Ford Lynx my parents gave me for my 17th birthday. I remembered jumping up and down like I did when I was 4 and got my first bicycle. It was not so much the car's sleekness or champagne-colored sheen that caused the excitement but the thought that yes, I'm finally going to drive! I have been learning to drive since I was 15, but this time, I was going to drive something that was mine. The thrill was different.

I did drive my car around (with parental supervision and still not going beyond the village gates), and can still I remember every detail, even stupid, silly ones. The feel of the steering wheel in my hands. The smell of new seat covers. The first time I parked the car on my own. Small, trivial things that others, except other first-time car owners, might not appreciate. If I'm lucky, I'll be able to drive other cars in the future, but the feeling will not be the same.



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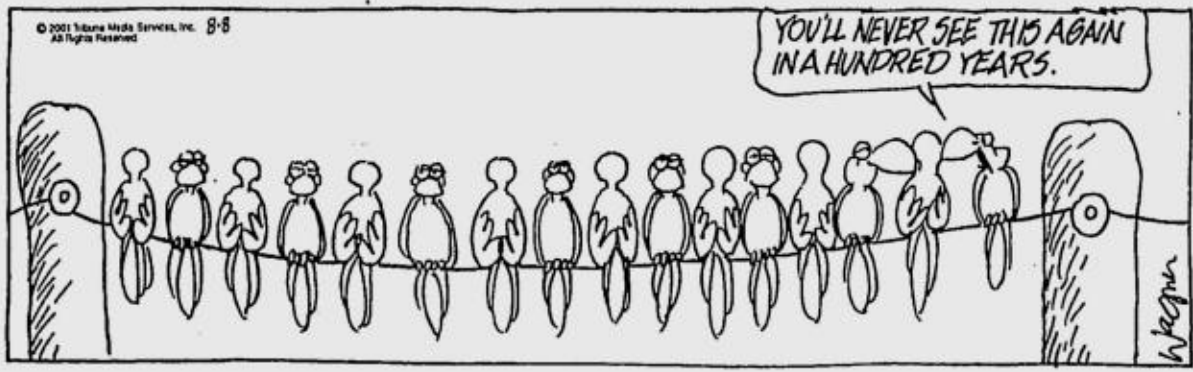
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BY EDGAR DIONELA



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brett Favre, David Lee Roth, Ben Vereen, Peter Coyote, Julia Sweeney
Happy Birthday: Your creative talents will surface. If you speak your mind and prove yourself, you will have no trouble drumming up future opportunities. Others will admire and follow you. Your numbers: 9, 13, 25, 32, 40, 48

- ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Don't bother complaining; just do the work. You have more energy than others so get moving and finish up. You will earn all the recognition, admiration and future support.
- GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): A sudden reversal of fortune can be expected. Pay off all your debts before celebrating. Don't be too eager to buy things for undeserving individuals. It's time to be responsible and save.
- LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): You shouldn't ask for help today. Others will just be in the way. Delve in and do the job well. Your boss will pat you on the back later in the week.
- TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Others who realize that your idea is a potential money-maker may try to steal your thunder. Protect your interests legally. Avoid serious discussions with loved ones.
- CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Don't let problems get to you today. Put your sensitivity to good use by spending time with a loved one. Compromise and be affectionate. Also, take time to indulge in activities you enjoy.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't sit around daydreaming. Mingle with individuals who can offer serious insights into business and future trends. Attend seminars where you will meet the right people.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take it easy. Don't expect sudden romantic encounters to be lasting. Hold back about your feelings until you discover more about the person who's coming on to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. ... and Cressida

8. Big relative?

15. Tally check

16. Filled pasta packets

17. Spend time worrying

18. Old-time ballroom dance

19. Metal container

20. Prime cut of beef

22. ... of luxury

23. Pursuit

25. Walks heavily

26. French movies

27. Self-images

28. Bowler's targets

29. Peer recognition

30. Supplying blood with oxygen

32. Doomed ones

33. Long-limbed, slender quality

35. Overindulging

38. Engraver's shading effects

42. Pitchfork line

43. Football kick

44. Poet Teasdale

45. Tibetan monk

46. Castro

47. Walked (on)

48. Gov't. trade reg. grp.

49. Woody Allen comedy

51. Operate

52. Wholly confused

54. Mimic

56. Twist together

57. Nulifies

58. Kalahari and Gobi

59. Trappers

DOWN

1. Windpipe

2. Measure again precisely

3. Carroll or Donald

4. Charged particle

UPPED ALGAE ATE

SALVO GOALLINES

STEADPLATEFRONT

RED GOOF IDEE

MEOW BASSETS

SPLASH ALLAH

IRON ABIES FDA

TOWNSTRETCHROOM

EWELWALTZ YOIRE

PARIES PSALMS

BASEMAN SOTS

AVERTARO HAW

LANDTHEATERPAGE

SINUOUSLY MELEE

ALA OTTER SPEED

5. Director Bunuel

6. Decompressing a computer file

7. British money

8. Ponders moodily

9. Rajah's wives

10. Baking chamber

11. Shakespearean contraction

12. Red phone

13. Roosevelt's First Lady

14. Ragged cutters

21. Angular distance east or west of Greenwich

24. Russian empress

26. Include, with of

29. Landlord of an inn

31. Zesty flavor

32. Well-mannered males

34. Bowling game

35. Cut and pasted together

36. Maiden turned into a spider

37. Back alley prowlers

39. Give an account of

40. Tile worker, at times

41. Dejection

43. Components

46. Michigan city

49. Move emotionally

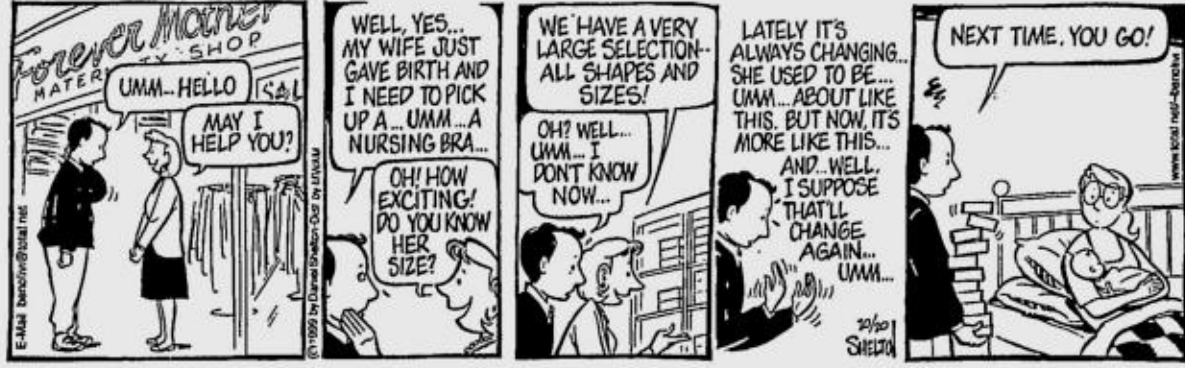
50. Capital of Latvia

53. Be in debt

55. Sticky black stuff

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER



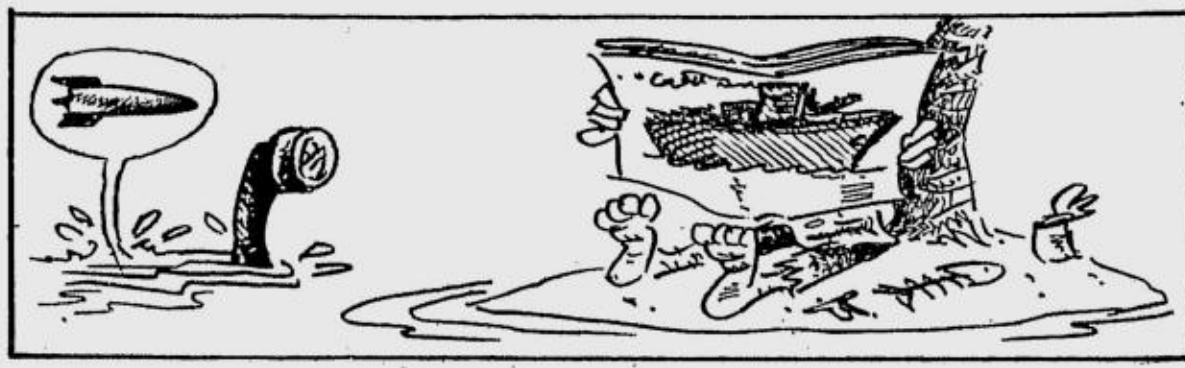
LOVEKNOTS

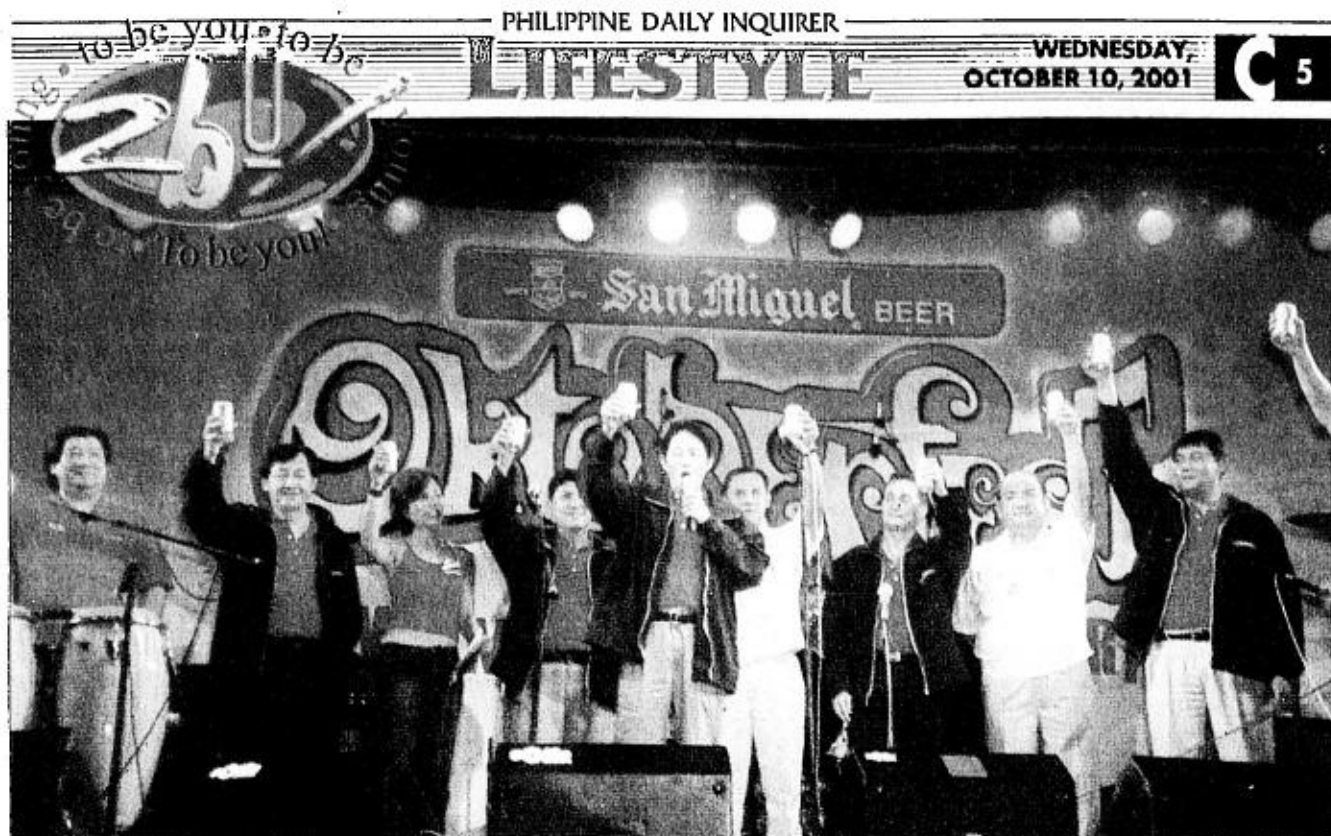
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING





THE SAN Miguel Group raising their cans to a toast—the San Miguel Beer drinking season is officially on.

Let's drink to that



DON Cunanan

MANONG, ang sarap
Mung balls!" said a feisty and yummy Joy Mead in her Ad Congress TV commercial. This could have been the scene, multiplied by thousands holding beer bottles at the gigantic launch of that much loved drink-and-eat feast, the San Miguel Beer Oktoberfest 2001.



Tim Yap

Dancing dominator lights in the sky paraded around the Libis party strip, this time pointing to the Eastwood City Walk, where the beerfest was held. Early on in the night, cars had followed the "1000 parking slots here" signs set up by San Miguel. In a city where the ratio is one to two persons in a car, the slots were wiped out early—but hey, looking for parking sometimes adds to the excitement of going to an event.

And if you think the parking queue was long, wait till you get to the entrance—it stretched a whole 90 yards of people from all shapes, backgrounds and sizes all eager to partake in this oh-so-Pinoy festival (which actually had its roots in beer-thirsty Germany). As if that was not enough, food booths, from gourmet treats to street selections, ran from here to eternity (pardon my celluloid nostalgia). This was not surprising, because this year's SMB Oktoberfest slogan is "Showtime, Chowtime Caravan."

Stalls selling *sisig*, fish, squid balls and shirts crowded the beer cum bazaar cum food fair. It was San Miguel beer with anything and everything—proof of Pinoy versatility.

Not only that, billiard tables were all over. The giant inflatable replicas of the pale pilsen bottle completed the beer heaven atmosphere, making me want to say "Hey, pare!" or some other butch comment.

So why am I writing about this? Well it's because wherever I go, San Miguel makes me proud. From its giant banner at the heart of Lan Kwai Fong in Hong Kong, to the

harbor of Ibiza, Spain (but there they think it's a Spanish beer—I tell them to dream on), San Miguel beer has, in one way or another, put us Pinoys in the global map. It gives the Filipino a warm and fuzzy feeling seeing that bottle appreciated in another land, as it is appreciated here, judging from the multitudes who enjoyed the bottomless booze that San Miguel showered on the guests that night.

One after another, bands showcased their wares as partyphiles, downed their beer and feasted on the food all over (from Libis establishments as well)—it was a modern-day fiesta at its finest.

So let's all raise our SMBs and barbecue sticks (or if you prefer it the chichi way, you can also have a martini or champagne and caviar—but what for?) and celebrate another excuse to get drunk.



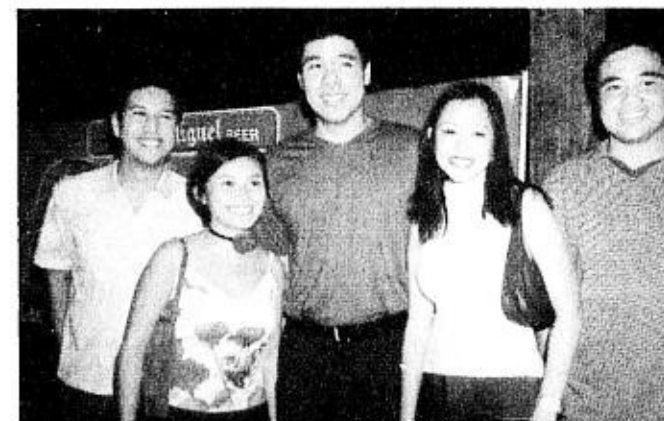
GUADA de Leon, Myra Puyat and Daffy Morales



RAFA Alunan



PAZZY Navarro, Kenji Marquez and Tina Tinio



DERRICK Santos, Candy Reyes, Bootsie Veloso, Ina Chiongblan and Javey de Venezia



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MISSSES EARTH. Carlene Aguilar and Evelyn Mikomagi

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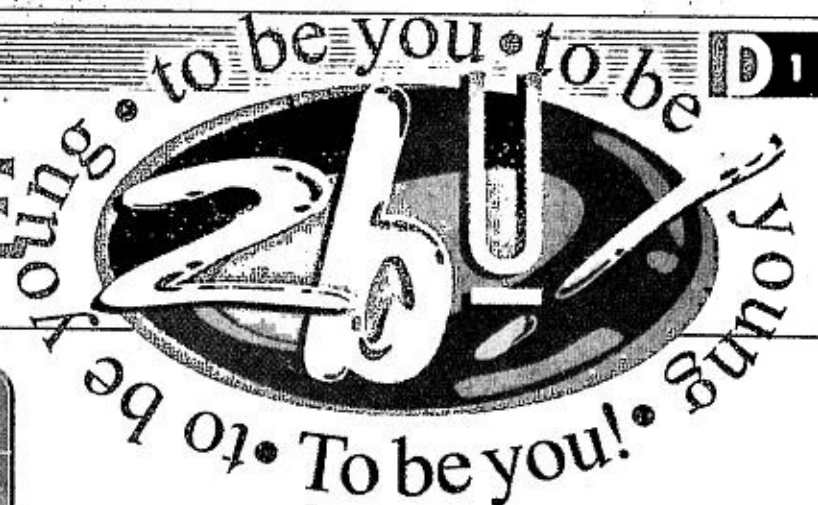
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LIFESTYLE



Reckless detour to death

BY MARICAR TOLOSA
PDI Research Department

DRIVING one's own car is the ultimate dream for most young people. Unfortunately, the fulfillment of this dream can also lead to the end of a promising life. A single mistake could be disastrous when on the road.

Christine Caruncho's family moved to Seattle, Washington, in 1995. Christine, eldest of four children, went back to the Philippines to finish her accounting course. After obtaining her degree she reunited with her family and started working as a teller in a bank where her sincere and ready smile won the hearts of colleagues and customers alike.

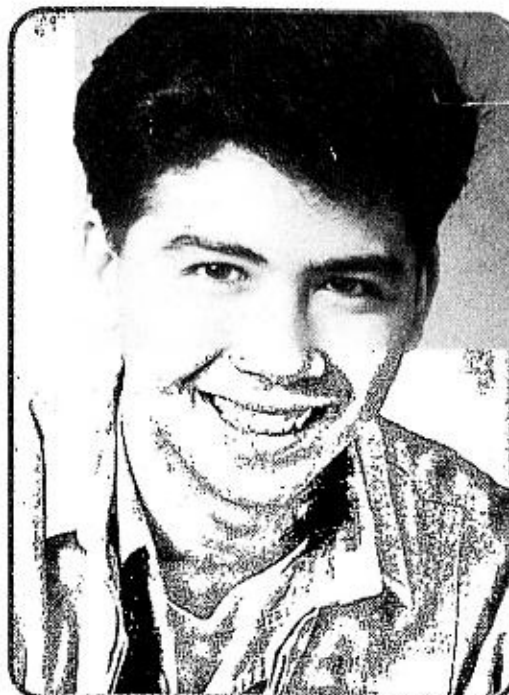
But on Sept. 9, 1998, a freak accident on the freeway ruined the dreams of the Carunchos.

Christine, then 22, was behind the wheel of her dream sports car she had recently bought. She was on her way to work when suddenly a truck made a lane change without signaling, forcing Christine to swerve and veer off the road. The car then flapped twice, hurling her outside. She did not have her seatbelt on.

For days she lay in a coma. Family, friends, coworkers, bank customers and even strangers



CHRISTINE Caruncho



JON Hernandez

kept vigil day and night in her hospital room. But after eight days of fighting for her life, she succumbed to her serious injuries. She would have turned 25 on Oct. 11 this year.

Singer's death

Singer Ed Pozon, fondly called "Tuttie-boy" by his mother, had no qualms showing the whole world his affection for his mom. In fact, in one of his public performances in Hong Kong, he unabashedly dedicated his song, "I Can't Help Falling in Love with You," to his mom whom he plucked from the audience and sang to on stage. His mom recalled that since learning to talk, he never failed to say "I love you" to her. Such was the closeness of mother and son that the memory of his sudden death continues to bring grief to his family.

On Dec. 3, 1995, around 8:30 a.m., in Flagstaff, Arizona, Ed was maneuvering a curve on a slip

RECKLESS/ p.D2

The dusty road
to death is paved
with the lives
of many young people

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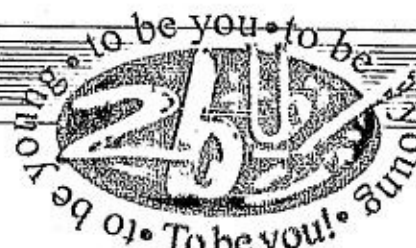
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LISA Cunanan

Reckless detour to death

(From page D1)

pery road when he lost control of the car. It spun out of control and fell off a ravine. His body, all of 6 feet, was thrown off the car as it plunged. He was without a seatbelt.

Ed was airlifted to the nearest hospital where he died 6½ hours later due to head and neck injuries. He was 23 years old and he would have gotten married the following year to his Philippine-based girlfriend.

The roads of the former US Clark Air Base in Pampanga are wide and well paved. There's also very little traffic especially at night and early



JAMES Narciso

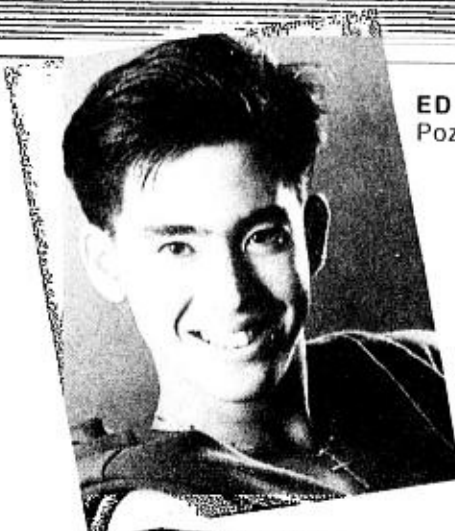
morning. It's a magnet for speedsters. But Death gets attracted to it, too. And in less than a year, the road claimed three lives.

An hour and a half past midnight of July 27 last year, tragedy struck, claiming the life of a young man who was just 19. James Narciso, or Jimboy to friends and family, was just a backseat passenger. He could have actually taken another ride to get to his destination. But he couldn't turn down a friendly invitation.

Jimboy had attended a wedding at Holiday Inn, then proceeded to a bar in Fontana with his friends. Later he and his best buddy, Anton, decided to go home earlier than the rest. The two waited for a taxi to get them to Jimboy's car, which was parked a couple of blocks away. While waiting, two friends offered them a lift. They agreed.

The ride was supposed to take only a few minutes. But perhaps the driver, who was in his early 20s, wanted to cut the time even shorter. But in the process, a life was cut short.

The car went out of control and its right side hit the trunk of a gigantic tree. According to Anton, when Jimboy saw what was about to happen, he managed to pull his best friend to-



ED Pozon



JOSEPH Alfoso

SULIT DAPAT ANG IYONG PAGHIHIRAP SA TRABAHO.



ward him since Anton was sitting on the right side of the car. It was surmised that the sudden swerve might have caused Jimboy's body to go on top of his friend's, saving Anton's life. The back of his head bore the brunt of the impact, killing him instantly. The driver and front passenger sustained minor bruises.

Joseph Alfoso was supposed to re-enroll as a high school junior after spending a year out of school. Last April 16, however, the plan was dropped.

He was invited in the wee hours of the morning to attend a debutante's party held inside Clark. He agreed to go with his teenage friend who would be driving.

On the way home, their speeding car hit a pole. The impact sliced the car in two and caused the pole to fall. The front of the car was totally detached from the rest of the car.

Joseph suffered fatal head injuries and was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. The driver suffered broken arms and legs, but survived.

Uncharitable tragedy

Edward Alonzo Malicic would have turned 16 last Oct. 7. He could have continued his charity work, which his family did not know about, among orphaned and impoverished kids living near his place. Shortly after midnight last May 26, a freak accident ended the life of the young man.

On that fateful day, Edward chose to go home rather than stay and sleep inside the villa of the Fontana Resort that his mother had rented, ironically, upon his prodding. The car was already about to leave when he ran after them to join them. Inside were his older brother and four relatives. He took a seat at the back. His brother relented to a cousin who insisted on driving since it was late and the roads were free of traffic.

His 24-year-old cousin was warned by Edward's brother not to drive too fast, but rather than ease it up on the gas pedal, he went even faster. Before they could leave Clark's premises, the brother ordered his cousin to stop so he could take over the wheel. Upon braking, the inexperienced driver lost control. The car rolled a number of times.

Cars passed them by and did not stop to help. It was the workers in nearby establishments who called an ambulance and assisted them. But because of the time that lapsed, Edward did not make it alive to the hospital. He succumbed to head injuries.

Four teenagers (three female passengers and a male driver) took a southbound drive on the North Luzon expressway. For the three girls, it would be their last.

While trying to weave through cars, the driver decided to take the right shoulder since it was free from other vehicles. It took the driver some time to see a stalled vehicle on their path. To avoid hitting it, he tried to move quickly back to the left lane, but as he did, a vehicle hit the car. The force of the impact caused the car to spin a number of times.

All three girls died from internal hemorrhage. One of them, Lisa Cunanan, had just celebrated her 18th birthday.

On the early morning of Nov. 7, 1993, actor Jon Hernandez was exiting the North Luzon expressway toward Tabang, Bulacan. He tried to avoid an obstruction on the road he earlier failed to see, but ended ramming the unmanned and unlit toll booth. The impact was so strong, his car was a total wreck. He died instantly. He was only 24.

Stories about road accidents vary. There's the official report of the police, there's the report of the victim's family and, in some cases, the surviving driver's story. Whichever version is the truth would matter little to the loved ones left behind who have to cope with the ravages of all that waste.



EDWARD Alonzo Malicic

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A flashy and chic party



SEVENTEEN Young Co. image model Carlos Rufino

STUDENTS from different colleges and universities painted the town red at Alabang Town Center last month with the interschool cheering competition dubbed "Town Cheers." The competition was open to both college and high-school teams. All weekends of the month were dedicated to showcase the cheering and team spirit of the students of OB Montessori, Olivarez College, Southville International School, De La Salle Zobel, De La Salle University, DLSU-College of St. Benilde and St. Benedict College.

The victory party last Sept. 22 was made into a night of more but with a twist of fashion. Before the actual awarding of winners and special prizes took place, Cinderella staged its latest collections from its top teen brands like Esprit, British India, Naf Naf Paris, Sisley, Seventeen Young Co., Infocus, Mickey Unlimited and San Francisco.

The cheerleaders made their ramp debut wearing the hottest pieces from Cinderella. The event was given another taste of cheering from the audience and guests who were mostly students from the schools that participated in the competition. Cinderella created a more classic look for Esprit with denim skirts, sweaters, polos and bandanas. British India welcomed the holiday season in advance with its red collection of haltered and turtle-neck tops with denim skirts and pants. Sisley's revealing image made the evening hotter with mini and tube tops while Naf Naf Paris paraded its printed satin skirts with plain tops. Seventeen Young Co. and Infocus showed edgy fashion with layering, socks and mix and match. Mickey Unlimited and San Francisco showed basic cuts in striking colors of orange, aqua and khaki. Visit Cinderella Alabang Town Center.

Eyewear to love



DOLCE & Gabbana has launched the "Love & Forever" eyewear collection for 2001.

The collection highlights freedom of expression. They are made of acetate materials and come in basic black, accessorized with glistening silver studs formed into hearts symbols and the words "Love & Forever" to give the wearer a distinctive look.

The collection expresses Dolce & Gabbana's strong passion to be always ahead of fashion trends.

The whole eyewear collection was conceptualized for young people and designed for a less formal lifestyle. The combination of materials and colors is totally different, creating a contrast and representing multifaceted world of young people, who are always on the lookout for changes in fashion and new trends.



Before



After

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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Cosmetics that can perform double duty

I KEEP seeing all these products in sticks, compacts and jars that claim to be all-in-one color for lips, cheeks and eyes. Can't I use my blush at least for the cheeks and eyes and are there any other makeup products that can perform double duty?

PENNY

Be very careful with the eye area. This part you just can't apply ordinary cosmetics on. The all-in-one



Kinny Salas

product has to specify that it is for the eyes or you risk infection. Unless the makeup has been expressly designed for all-over use, it's not a good idea. The Food and Drug Association in the United States strictly regulates which color additives can safely be used in each cosmetic. The color pigments added to the lip pencil may irritate the eye. A lipstick or blush may cause contact dermatitis or even pimples and acne if used to shade lids. Blushes and eye shadows have never been tested for lips so don't try to substitute them for lipstick. You have more leeway for the cheeks though because they have thicker skin than the eyelids and contain no mucous membranes, so lipsticks, eye shadows and eye pencils can, in most cases, be used without irritation as blush.

I just started working recently because I'm fresh out of college. This is my first job. The funny thing is, my nails have become so weak they are so brittle and keep breaking that I can't even grow them past my fingers. Is there a connection?

BRENDA

Sounds like an effect of stress to me but it could also be that you are doing a lot of filing and typing. The wear and tear on your nails will eventually thin them and make them more prone to breaking. If your work involves a lot of washing, like a health-care worker or a beautician, the water will rob your nails of moisture. Whatever the reason for your problem, the best solution I can think of is to combat the problem by massaging an emollient hand and nail cream into nails after washing. Search at Sally Hansen stalls for these oil-based products and try lotions like Vaseline specifically for hands and nails. To aid them to grow, try those nail polish products that contain calcium and nail strengtheners. These will guard the moisture in your nails. When removing the nail polish, use nail polish removers that are formulated for thin, weak nails and try not to do this for more than once a week.

I have big breasts for a Filipina. I am a 36C and I like the long-legged effect cropped blazers and sweaters give. What styles will look best on me?

COLEEN

Concentrate on styles that bring focus away from the bustline—button-up cardigans and crew-necks versus deep V necklines. Midriff skimming lengths and a looser top are more flattering than short tight shapes. Since large patterns and special treatments—ribbing, cabling and appliques tend to make large busts look more magnified. Stick to simple detailing and plain colors. Keep sweaters as sleek as possible because the fluffier the coat, the fatter and bigger you look. Dump mohair in favor of thin, flat knits in cotton acrylic and wool.

For questions or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax to 897-4805

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Red Hot

SUNDAY GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE

October 14, 2001 Issue

LIFESTYLE

Cars made
to be driven
and be seen in

BY GABRIEL H. MERCADO

LET us allow ourselves, if only for a moment, to imagine that we had, say about P4 million for buying a car. But you are not an ordinary Jose or Maria. You're a little quirky, somewhat a character, a little spoiled, but you've definitely got taste, and you love to drive.

You also have had it with pretentious 2000 models being passed off as 2001 models just by adding new paint combinations and a racing sticker, or family sedans posing as sportsmodels with all their accessories, or veritable trucks pretending to be cars.

So why not join me on a yellow brick road to the country's offbeat cars. Cars that would make accountants, engineers, basically practical, pragmatic, sensible people, go "Huh?!" These are cars that you would either love or hate.

Nissan Verita

This is for the driver who has carefully considered his options and concluded: "You know what? I don't really need a big engine, sharp handling, or dragster-like 0 to 60 acceleration. Where can you use that performance anyway? Edsa? Dream on."

The Verita is for the driver who knows the road isn't a racetrack and who does not have the urge to intimidate everyone with size and heft. He just wants to get where he's going in relative comfort and style—heaps and heaps of style.

As I looked it over, the Verita's style was just astounding. This is JD Power & Associates' Compact Car of the Year, with power all around, six-speaker audio, 1275 cc, four cylinders, yada yada yada. One does not buy this car because of Nissan's technical achievements. If you want that, go for their other models. The Verita is for the person who buys paintings with no regret and for the joy of it, not as an investment; who comes to a party wearing the most controversial of outfits; who prompts his conservative relatives to ask his mother incredulously, "What is he doing with himself?!"

The Verita, while delivering lots of style, does not stint on the provision of the amenities of a modern vehicle. It is leather all around for the seats. The kicking plate (where you rest your foot) is chrome while the dashboard has real wooden trim. The classically designed chrome and wood steering wheel is accented by a chrome-trimmed analog clock right in the middle. Why can't they make all car clocks like that?

Due to time constraints, I unfortunately didn't get to drive the car but it did not really matter. The car has been around since last year and, barring a recall and judging from the specifications (yes, it's still wise to read it, you know), would probably provide normal to adequate performance. Cost: P698,000.

Toyota Echo

Ariel de Jesus, public relations person of TMP Inc., helped me along with some market information. Men accounted for 62 percent of Echo



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new ring tones

TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
When I'm Sixty Four	Beatles	TONE WHEN64
Rocky Raccoon	Beatles	TONE ROCKYRAC
Paperback Writer	Beatles	TONE PAPERBACK
Magical Mystery Tour	Beatles	TONE MAGICALM
Lovely Rita	Beatles	TONE LOVELYRIT

top ten ring tones

TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
1 Strawberry Fields Forever	Beatles	TONE STRAWBERRY
2 Yesterday	Beatles	TONE YESTERDAY
3 Sa Yahweh	Gary Valenciano	TONE SAYAHWEH
4 Back At One	Brian McKnight	TONE BACKAT1
5 Lady Marmalade	Christina Aguilera	TONE MARMALADE
6 Pagdating ng Panahon	Aiza Seguerra	TONE PAGDATING
7 Thank You	Dido	TONE THANKYOU
8 Holiday	Madonna	TONE HOLIDAY
9 We Will Rock You	Queen	TONE ROCKYOU
10 Hataw Na	Gary Valenciano	TONE HATAWNA

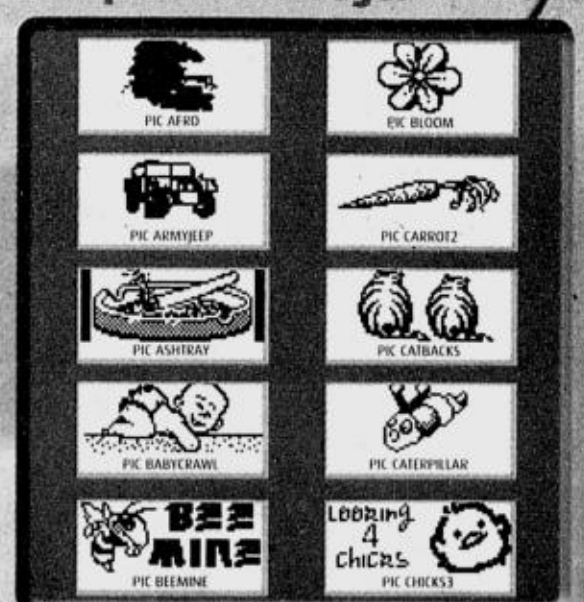


top ten logos

new logos



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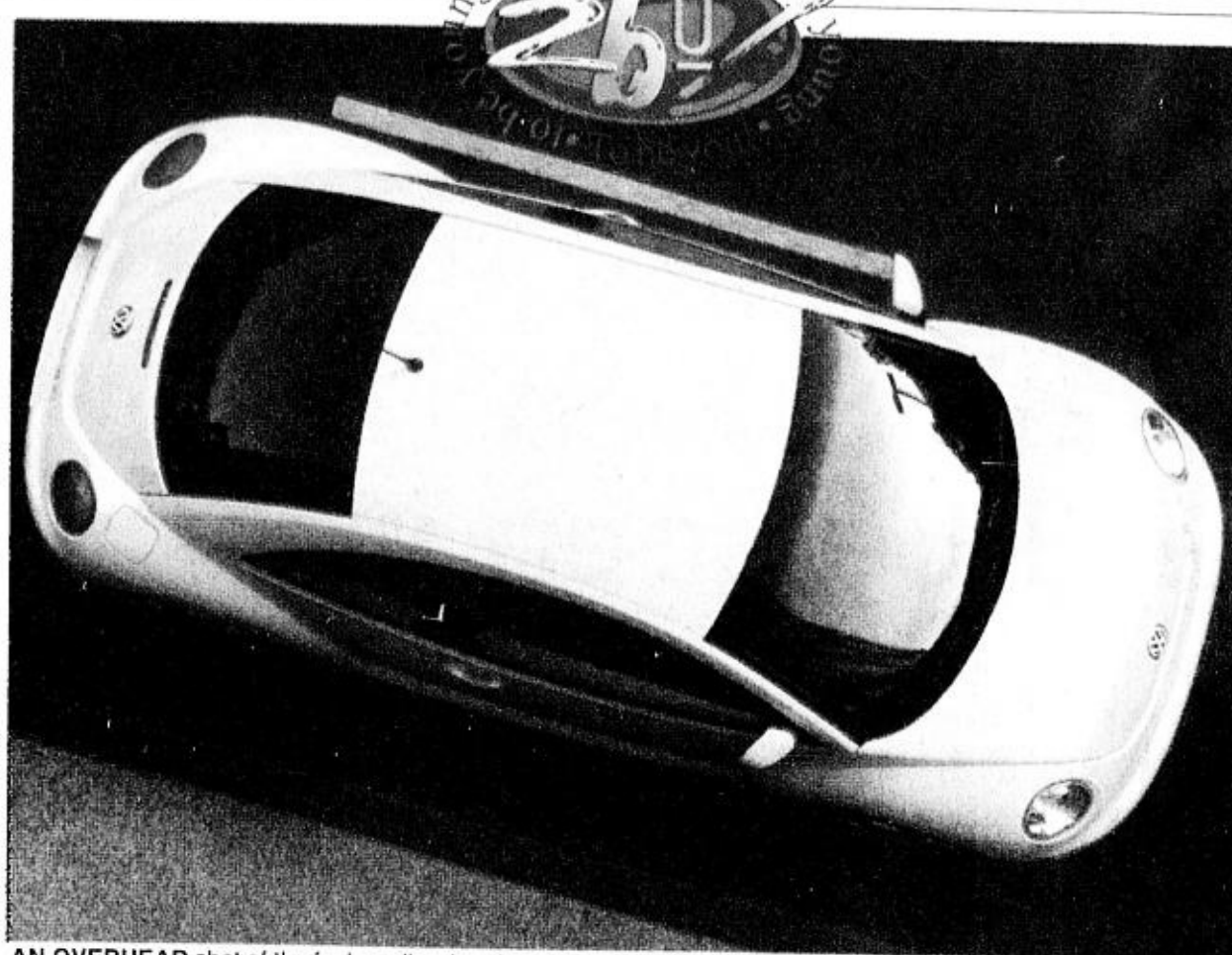
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VOLKSWAGEN Beetle



AN OVERHEAD shot of the funky yellow beetle

Cars made to be driven and be seen in

(From page E1)

buyers, whose average age was 32 years. Not surprisingly, 92 percent of Echos sold were meant to be second cars.

De Jesus said the typical Echo owner had the basic attitudes of the young or the "Gen X" market. "They can be characterized as very independent, savvy and challenged by diversity," he said. However, he admitted that, "It took a while for the market to appreciate the Echo since we've always been accustomed to the typical three box-design of the sedans. But this is what makes the Echo stand out in the market. It appeals to a special group of car owners who shares the independent and unconventional characteristics of the Echo."

The Echo and Echo Verso (a.k.a. Vitz in Japan and Yaris in Europe) are truly cute in every sense of the word. They provide a lot of head and legroom, with a lot to spare for luggage. Less material is used in the side panels and seats are designed to save space.

Toyotas are known for dependability and ease of use. And the Echo has won its share of awards, Car of the Year for Europe (2000) and Japan (2001). However, the local market still needs to be convinced. In a showroom, you can see women and little kids excitedly pointing at it and smiling. Men are likely to be frowning and looking unconvinced. The car is certainly going to cause a stir wherever you go, and that may not always be a good thing.

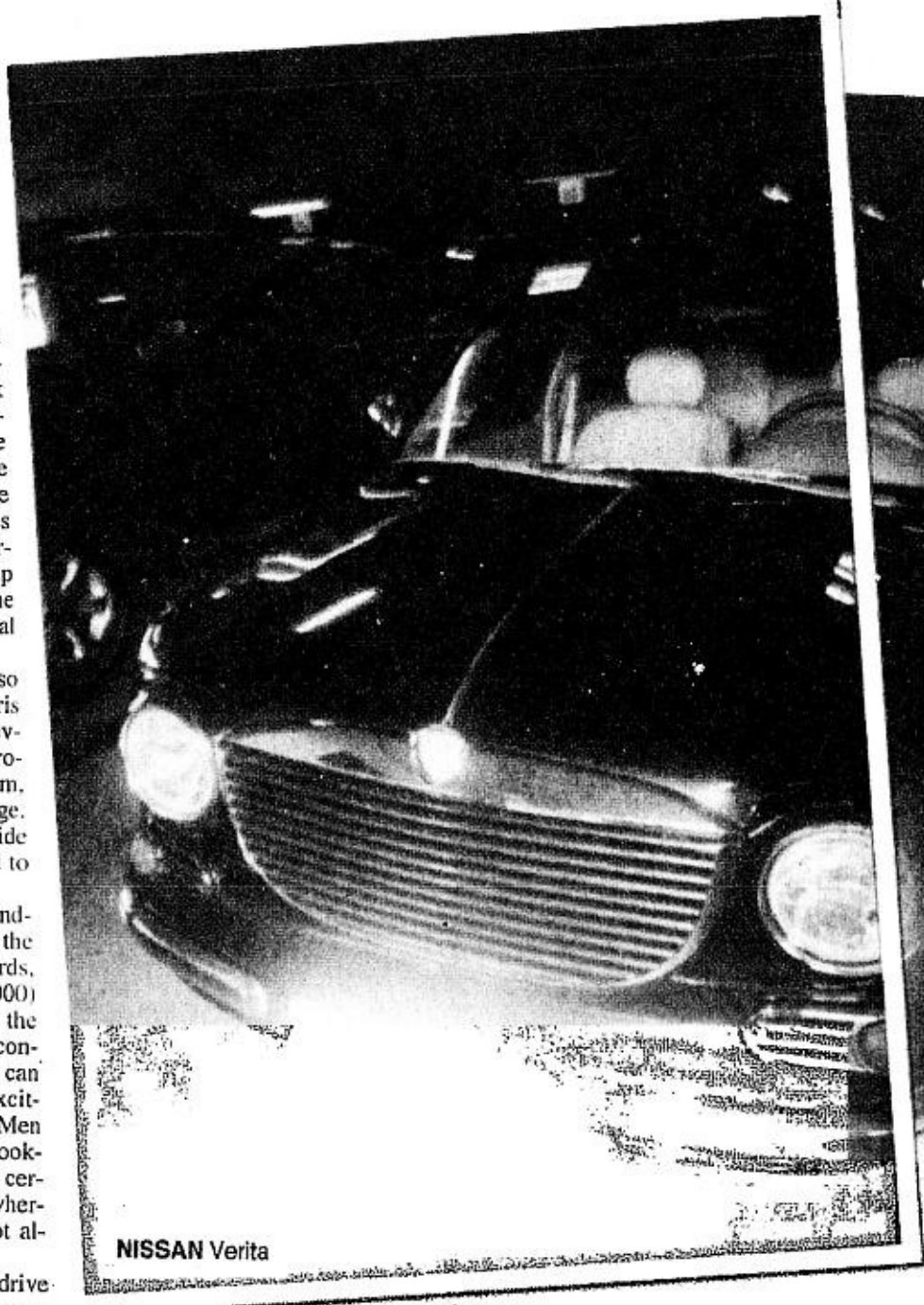
Again, I was not able to test drive it, which was a letdown. However, you can check it out for yourselves at Toyota dealers everywhere. With a price range of P740,000 to P639,000 and a host of options to choose from, this car will certainly be an interesting choice.

VW Beetle

Finally, a test drive! But why are people looking at me? Is it because of my long, tangle-free hair? Or perhaps my shiny white teeth and minty fresh breath? It's really the Double Yellow 2001 model Volkswagen Beetle. Yes, THAT.

As a kid, my dad transported us all over in Volkswagens of different types, so I approach this car with more than passing interest and sentimentality. I grew up on Walt Disney's "Herbie" movies. At night, I would sneak a peek into the garage, hoping to catch a wink from our car.

For a car with such a history for me, it was no surprise that I got all excited driving the little cutie. However, those unfamiliar with its legacy



NISSAN Verita

might find it quite a stretch to give up P1.8 million for a car. Carlo Olana of Autostad Philippines, the local dealer, explained that most owners were older men who understood the Beetle's legacy and were buying a "future classic." I totally agree.

There is nothing like a German car, especially one with such looks. VW in its desire to breathe new life into the long-retired Beetle

name, chose "cute" as opposed to the "spartan" car it was known to be. The company retained the same door handle design and even the distinctive running board, which was etched forever in my memory. It is cute, cute, CUTE. Although I admit the flower pot might be stretching it.

Anyway, back to driving the new Beetle. What first strikes you is the wide view you get

as you drive. Everything is bright and clear. You are surrounded by a wide windshield and large windows. The 2.0-liter automatic I was driving was smooth and fast, but not spectacularly so. Again, speed isn't the point. If you are thinking Schumacher (the Formula One racing champion), this is not the car for you. What you get is a car with personality—the ultimate accessory. At close to P2 million it is a very pricey one but arguably there is no other car in the local market with the exclusivity and downright cuteness of this one. Call Dan Gardaya at 888-6561 to check it out.

BMW Z3

So how did a BMW test-drive get into a write-up on offbeat cars? The BMW lineup does include sedans and limousines, and even a new, gorgeous SUV. But the Z3 is a Roadster and there's just nothing like it. As most BMW owners tend to be conservative in taste, a two-seater convertible just goes against the stereotype.

This car is not an out-and-out sports car—there are others that are faster. It is not exotic and not as expensive as some other cars. It is, however, a fun car made to be driven. Not too overly exclusive, it does not have to be kept in a garage merely to be ogled at. You can actually drive the car to work.

So how did it drive? I have avoided writing specs, but just let me blurt this out real quick: M54 6 inline 2.1 cc, five-speed shortthrow manual producing 170 bhp, top speed 222 km/h. Enough said. Inside, you get your leather everything, easily readable gauges, airbags on both sides, electric everything (including the top), excellent audio.

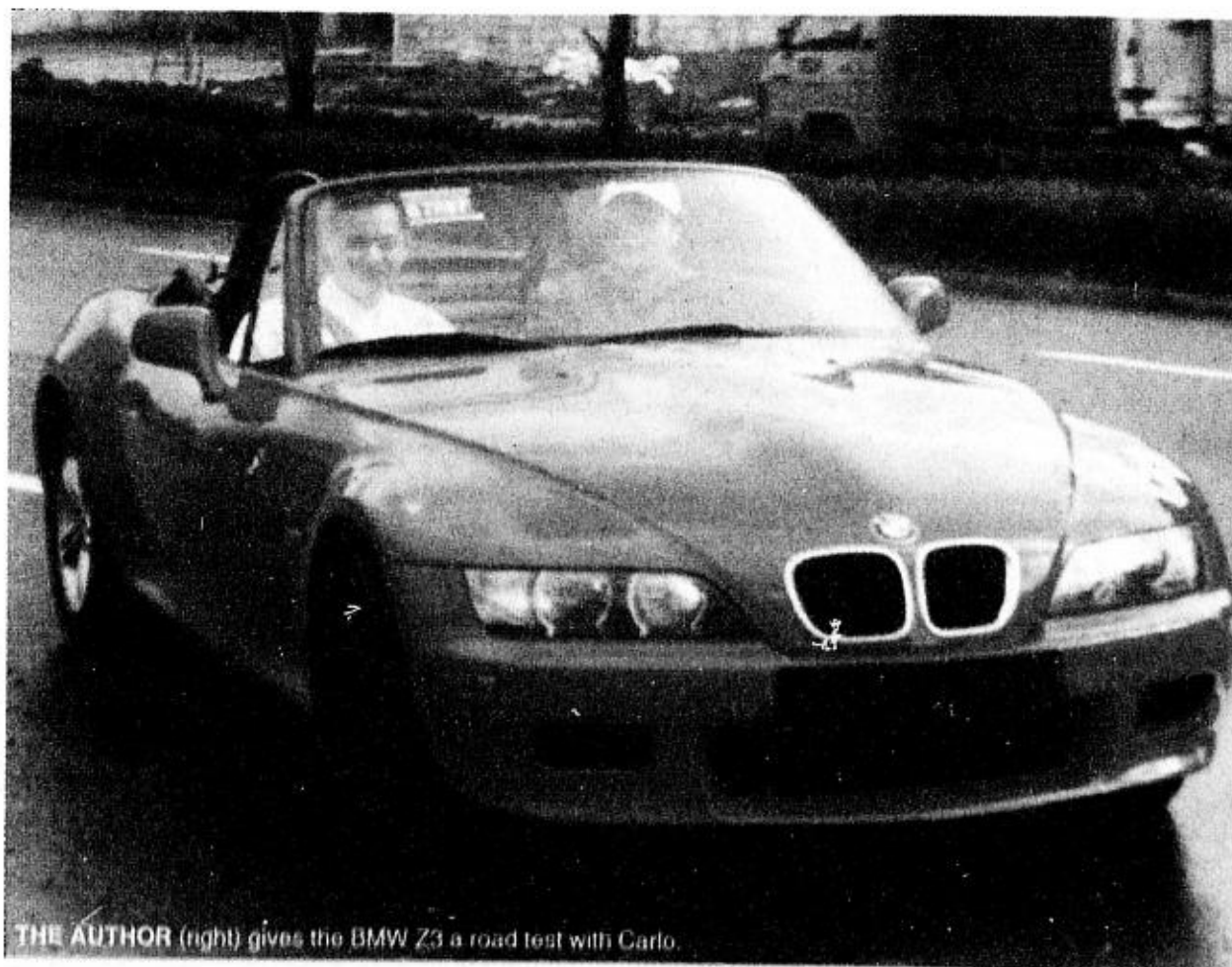
And how did it feel? It was noticeably quiet. The ride was just right and never stiff, surprising for a smallish car. I made a few turns, but the rain kept me from doing much else. Fortunately after the rain stopped, Prestige Cars vice president for sales Mario Gloria urged me to go out and do it again. I grudgingly (yeah right!) agreed.

The exhaust note at 5000 rpm urges, moves, compels you to DRIVE it. To not only breathe, but LIVE. It whispers into your ear: Go ahead. Punch it. Take it strong. Go for it. Live. Feel it. Do it again.

This car is priced at P3.8 million not because it is a snobbish car, but because it is one made to be driven. That makes it a special car and well worth the cost. You can call Prestige Cars Libis, QC at 638-0734 to experience it.



ECHO in gold



THE AUTHOR (right) gives the BMW Z3 a road test with Carlo.

'Rent' is worth the money paid

BY ANNE ROSE A. ELICAÑO
2bU! Correspondent

It would be an understatement to say that the musical "Rent" is amazing. Phenomenal? That's more like it.

"Rent" has received rave reviews, four Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and the Pulitzer Prize for Best Drama since its first staging in 1996. The Philippines has not been spared the frenzy. We have played the soundtrack CD again and again, formed long lines outside theaters showing it, and adopted "no day but today" as our mantra.

We know exactly why. "Rent" reflects the realities of this age and does not adopt the indifference toward them by established institutions of society. It resonates with our anthems and reflects the soul of the 1990s in drama, dance and song. And like all great musicals, it celebrates life. Only this time, the celebration is in gritty downtown New York and set to the pulsating beat of edgy rock music.

Characters

The celebration of life is most poignant in the scene where the characters sing "Seasons of Love." Powerful overhead lights shine down on the characters, who are lined up as they sing: "... five-hundred twenty-five thousand/six hundred minutes/how do you measure the life/of a woman or a man?/in truths that she learned/or in the times that she cried/in bridges he burned/or the way that she died."

This is what "Rent" is all about—characters each with a unique identity, passionately singing the same song of life in unison. These characters form a mosaic in the story. Mark (JM Rodriguez), the narrator, is an amateur filmmaker who alternately uses his camera to hide from the harsh reality and to document the lives of his friends. He shares a flat with Roger (Calvin Millado), a rocker trying to write his last song before AIDS overtakes him. Their friend, Massachusetts Institute of Technology-educated Collins (Michael de Mesa) finds love in the compassionate Angel (Jake Macapagal, fresh from his performance in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch"), who is also dying of AIDS.

Mark's ex-girlfriend Maureen (Lana Jalosjos) is an irrepressible performance artist who tries to save their space from Benny (Lee Robin Salazar), a former friend turned greedy landlord. Maureen has a love-hate relationship with Joanne (Bituin Escalante of "Jesus Christ Superstar" fame), a control-freak lawyer. Mimi (Rachel Alejandro), a stripper with a drug problem, falls in love with Roger.

Cast talk

It would be impossible to talk about the characters without talking about the people who portrayed them. 2bU! correspondent Happy David and I met some cast members of "Rent" Manila and heard their thoughts on the play.

"Rent" opens your eyes to the truth, to reality. Society is f---ed up and individuality is not upheld. People have to learn to open their hearts and respect other people," Macapagal said. When asked what he thought would be the reaction of the youth to the realities presented in "Rent," he asked me, "You are one of the youth. What do you think?"

An interesting question that should not be answered by me alone. It would be up to the youth to answer once the play was restaged. However, "Rent" is not for the youth alone.

"I don't hold the view that it speaks to our generation. My mother saw it [and] she fell in love with it. It just taps into something genuine in each person. Something that's more tolerant, something that's more forgiving," Escalante said. "Rent" does not alienate. It does not have a condescending [attitude] toward drugs. It is real. People who have drug problems are not people you shun. You love them. That's how Mimi got

over it in the first place. She started feeling loved... that's how she got past the drug problem."

The cast members were unanimous in saying that the production also touched their lives by strengthening their bonds with each other. The sense of community is not merely an act. Nor will it fade away after the final curtain calls. Rodriguez said, "I've never been in a production [such as this] where the cast members are this close. We're really comfortable with each other."

'Rent' Manila '01

The big night came and "Rent" slowly unfolded. The group I was with had mixed reactions afterward. Some felt it lacked the edge and charge that "Rent" in its original Manila staging in 1999 had. Another said Alejandro was not effective as Mimi because she could not dance. Some were blown away by De Mesa and Escalante's performances.

Others were just happy to be watching "Rent" again. I noticed heads of members of the audience bobbing to the beat of the music and lips silently forming the words—wannabe bohemians and Rentheads all. "Rent" lives on.

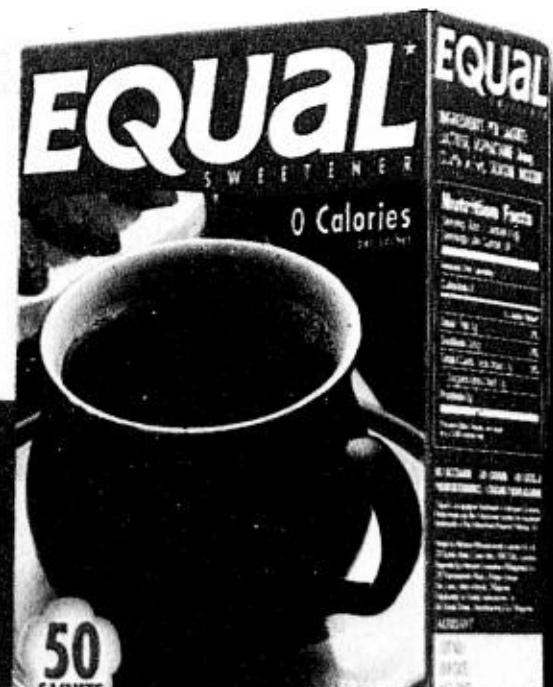
"Rent" runs until Nov. 4 at the GSIS Theater. Call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078



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Friendship blossoms in teen mag

THE OCTOBER issue of Candy magazine pays tribute to best friends.

In the issue, Candy offers fun and simple suggestions to deepen your friendship. Try sneaking your pal's favorite chocolate bar in her schoolbag when she's not looking. You may also take silly snapshots of you and your friends and stick them on your lockers or just give your favorite friend a great big hug.

Want to hear some "budtime" stories? Candy threw a slumber party for four of your favorite commercial models who had some serious pillow talk about the ultimate sleepover essentials. Amanda, Drinne, Nicole and Sandra share everything from bedtime rituals, beauty secrets to must-see videos and their favorite midnight munchies. Candy gives you tips on how you and your friends can throw your very own girls' night-in.

Find out what type of friends you have or what type of friend you are. Know what to do with friends who never let you get a word in, those who are always late, and those who might not be such a good influence.

Candy magazine is available in magazine shops and bookstores nationwide at P85 per copy. Subscribe now and get the chance to win a Hallmark gift pack. Get cute and cuddly goodies and a gift pack from Hallmark. Call 635-9728 for Metro Manila and (032) 412-5566 to -67 or (082) 224-5818 for Visayas and Mindanao. Visit Candy magazine online at www.candymag.com. Candy magazine is published by Summit Media.

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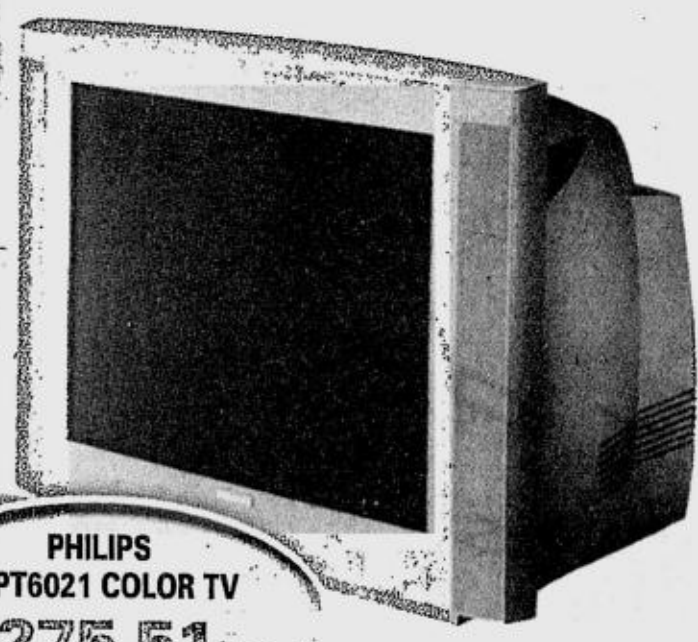
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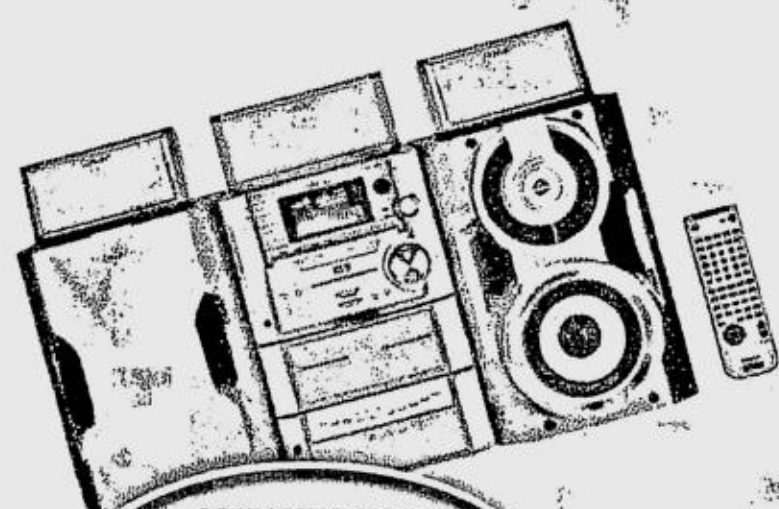
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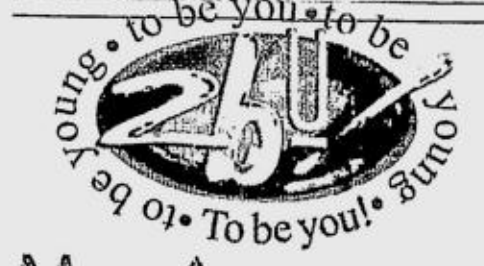
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Music that drives

BY MAUI V. REYES

ANYONE who tells you he is content with the sound of blaring jeepneys and honking buses while driving is a big, fat liar.

Almost everyone, when given the chance to get behind the wheel (or just get in a car), needs music whether it is the latest Britney tune or Mozart.

2bU! asks musicians and DJs what they like to hear when they are cruising. Get your CD burners ready and prepare for the ultimate road-mix-tape!

It depends on my mood. Right now I'd say "I Just Wanna..." by Kiss, because the rhythm and beat sort of "drives"...but then ask me again in an hour and I have changed my mind.—**Bennii Obana, 89.9 DJ**

The Police's "Regatta de Blanc." It's a jump-up-and-down, feel-good, high-energy song!—**Joey, NU 107.5 DJ**

"Holiday" by the Get Up Kids. It's nice and up-tempo, but not too heavy on the chorus. It's a catchy song.—**Miggy, Chico Science**

That song by John Meyer that they're playing on NU right now. I can't remember the title but it's catchy and relaxing at the same time.—**Jeff Cabal, Ciudad**

Pat Metheny's "Minuam," specially on a highway with blue skies and green fields. The song starts real quiet and just builds up to a nice crescendo. Sound of freedom!—**Francis Reyes, The Dawn**

"Arabian Nights" from Disney's "Aladdin" soundtrack. Such a high feeling, speeding on the freeway while the singer climaxes into 'Araaaaaabian naaaaaaayts' full-blast!—**Mikey Amistoso, Ciudad**

"Sugar, Sugar," for an amiable mood. It's an old song, way back in the 1960s.—**Kyla**

A Perfect Circle's "3 Libras." It sets the perfect mood while cruising. *Kahit among scenery makita mo, fit sa imagery ng song.*—**Lee Nadela, Slapshot**

I guess the "Strand" album by the Spinanes. It's extremely atmospheric and relaxing. *Tanang music video lagi ang feeling ko when I listen to it on a trip. Hanap!*—**Diego Castillo, <s> and Death to A.I.**

"Live to Tell" by Madonna. *Kasi parang slow motion 'yung dating.*—**Zach Lucero, Imago**

There's a lot but I can only think of ska at the moment...probably "Lying Ass Bitch" by Fishbone.—**Annette Ortiz, Fatal Posporos**

"Crush" by Mandy Moore. It's good therapy to think about your childhood crush—high school or college. The song takes you back to that *kilig* feeling when you had a crush on someone when you were a kid.—**Chingay Andrada, RX 93.1 DJ**

"Coldwater" music by this band called Tosca.—**Rann Golanco, Mojofly**

"Twist" of Marley. Why? *Para smooth ang drive.*—**Paolo Rosal, Cheese**

Duran Duran's "Save a Prayer." It's a relaxing song. It was always being played in the car stereo when I was learning to drive.—**Ricci Gurango, Mojofly**

"1979" by the Smashing Pumpkins. Aside from the fact that it's a great song, it helps that Billy Corgan was singing from the backseat in the video.—**Yanny, Lillian**

"The Squarepusher" theme from the Squarepushers.—**Mong, Chico Science**

I usually listen to jazz.—**Donna Macalino, Fatal Posporos**

Joe Satriani's "Surfing with the Alien." Why? Four words: pedal to the metal!—**Chino, Itchy Worms**

Everything But the Girl's "Rollercoaster." It's relaxing *pero hindi nakakaantok.*—**Mark, Rivermaya**

For long drives and I'm driving, anything by the Foo Fighter and anything that will keep me awake. If I'm not driving, anything relaxing that will put me to sleep, like classical music. *Pag-city driving naman, I listen to anything. What's inside my CD changer right now is Radiohead, Soundgarden, Blur, Itchyworms and Imago. Or I just tune in to NU.*—**Vin Dancel, Itchyworms**

"Cliffs of Doves" by Eric Johnson, "Surfing With the Alien" by Joe Satriani, "Spirit of Radio" by Rush.—**Wolf Gemora, Wolfgang**

"19-2000" by Gorillaz. It has that infectious anti-traffic groove.—**Raimund Marasigan, Eraserheads and <s>**

2bU!'s road music.
We're not music pros but we appreciate a tune or two when on the road. Here are the correspondents' top picks: Veruca Salt's "Volcano Girls" or Third Eye Blind's "New Girl." Try playing that in an SUV when you just got your license. Total freedom!